FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

Near East & South Asia

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MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 August Middle East and South Asia Review ..... AA 1

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Arab Foreign Ministers To Meet in Tunis 'Next Week' *[KUNA]* ..... BB 1
Council To Convene 15 Aug *[KUNA]* ..... BB 1
ICO's Pirzada Supports Saudi Security Measures *[SPA]* ..... BB 1
Soviet Leadership Sends Message on Gulf to Klibi *[KUNA]* ..... BB 1

CHAD

FANT Issues Further Communique on Aozou Action ..... B 1
President Issues Decree on Cabinet Reshuffle *[AFP]* ..... B 1
GUNT's Goukouni Demands End to Fighting *[AFP]* ..... B 2
On Possible Al-Qadhdhafi Ties *[Paris]* ..... B 2
French Minister: Conflict 'Exclusively Chadian' *[Paris]* ..... B 3

EGYPT

Ghali Appeals to Libya, Chad To Stop Fighting ..... C 1
'Abd al-Majid Chairs Committee Meeting on Tabah ..... C 1
'Abd al-Majid, Israeli Ambassador Discuss Peace ..... C 1
Minister Leads Military Delegation to Iraq ..... C 1
'Bright Star' News Coverage Said 'Forbidden' *[RFL]* ..... C 1
Detained Members of Islamic Groups Said Released *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 10 Aug]* ..... C 1
African Envoys Condemn Al-Azhar Student Riots ..... C 1

LIBYA

Iran's Sheykh ol-Eslam Arrives on Visit 11 Aug ..... D 1
Reportage on Burkinabe President Sankara's Visit ..... D 1
Arrives in Tripoli 11 Aug ..... D 1
Meets Al-Qadhdhafi; Statement Released ..... D 1
Departs Tripoli 11 Aug ..... D 1
Suriname Chief of Staff Arrives on Visit ..... D 1

SUDAN

Ethiopian MIG Fighters Attack Al-Qadarif Area ..... G 1
Ethiopian Forces 'Guarding' Addis Ababa Embassy ..... G 1
Foreign Ministry Clarifies Stance on Mecca Incident ..... G 1
Support for Iran Denied ..... G 1
Saudi Position, Rights Upheld ..... G 1
Saudi Envoy Delivers Video of Mecca Riot ..... G 1
DPRK Parliamentarians Arrive for Visit 10 Aug ..... G 1
SPLA Claims Government Massacres 17 Civilians *[Radio SPLA]* ..... G 2
SPLA Says 'No Difficulty' in Expanding Activities *[Radio SPLA]* ..... G 2

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

Iraqi Minister 'Aziz Expresses 'Full Solidarity' ..... J 1
Meets With Amir 11 Aug *[INA]* ..... J 1

PDRY

Upcoming Exercises Seen as Serving U.S. Interests ..... J 1

SAUDI ARABIA

35 Nationals 'Confined' in Tehran Apartments *[AFP]* ..... J 1
Iraqi Prime Minister Arrives in Jeddah 11 Aug ..... J 2
Received by King Fahd ..... J 2

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Iraq's Tariq 'Aziz Arrives With Message 12 Aug *[INA]* ..... J 2

IRAQ

Communique No 2,774 Details Combat 10-11 Aug ..... K 1
UN Informed Iran Shelling Qal'at Dizah, Basra ..... K 1
Iranian Opposition Statement Cited on Mecca Events ..... K 1
AL-JUMHIRIYAH Scores Syrian Figure's Tehran Trip *[7 Aug]* ..... K 2

ISRAEL

Peres Comments on Peace Process, Lavi Project ..... L 1
Comments on Hill Visit ..... L 1
AL-FAJR: U.S. Envoy Hill's Visit 'Doomed' *[8 Aug]* ..... L 2
Hill May Be Last Reagan Envoy to Region *[AL-QUDS 9 Aug]* ..... L 2
Shamir's Office Denies Shultz Sent Lavi Message ..... L 3
Pentagon Said Halting Action Until Lavi Decision ..... L 3
Air Force Unveils Upgraded Phantom Jet Fighter *[THE JERUSALEM POST 12 Aug]* ..... L 3
HA'ARETZ Commentary on U.S. Dealings With Shamir *[11 Aug]* ..... L 3
Environmental Group To Visit Moscow 'This Month' ..... L 4
'Takeover' of Arab Electric Company Criticized *[AL-SHA'B 10 Aug]* ..... L 4
Jordanian Involvement in Territories Viewed *[DAVAR 10 Aug]* ..... L 5
Border Guards' Role To Expand; IDF Role To Lessen *[DAVAR 11 Aug]* ..... L 6
AL-SHA'B Reports PLO Offices Reopened in Cairo *[9 Aug]* ..... L 6

JORDAN

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives, Makes Statement ..... M 1
Notes Fate of Missing Diplomat *[AFP]* ..... M 1
Egyptian Minister of State 'Ubayd Arrives 12 Aug ..... M 1
Received by King Husayn ..... M 1
AL-ITTIHAD on Crash of U.S. F-16 in Maneuvers *[Abu Dhabi]* ..... M 1
AL-DUSTUR Urges Caution on U.S. Visit to Israel *[10 Aug]* ..... M 2
Foreign Minister Al-Masri on Mideast Conference *[AL-RA'Y 11 Aug]* ..... M 2

LEBANON

Views on Dealing With Government Situation Noted ..... N 1
Hilu, Al-Jumayyil Meet ..... N 1
Franjiyah on Alternatives ..... N 1
Lebanese Forces Urge Changes *[VOL]* ..... N 1
Liberal Party To Discuss Al-Huss Plan, Government ..... N 1
Al-Jumayyil Seeks Participation in Mideast Meeting *[VOL]* ..... N 1

SYRIA

U.S. 'Directly Responsible' for Gulf Tension ..... O 1
'Repercussions' Seen From 'Bright Star' Maneuvers ..... O 1
AL-BA'TH Criticizes U.S. 'Adventure' in Gulf ..... O 2

AFGHANISTAN

AFP Cites Diplomats on Fighting Near Kabul ..... P 1
UN Representative Comments *[Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG 11 Aug]* ..... P 1
Rabbani on Return of Ex-King, Relations With USSR *[Vienna]* ..... P 1

INDIA

Gandhi Comments on Investigation of V.P. Singh *[AFP]* ..... R 1
Ruling MP's Demand 'Inquiry' ..... R 1
Veteran Congress-I Leader Comments *[INDIAN EXPRESS 23 Jul]* ..... R 1
Merits of Nuclear Treaty With Pakistan Questioned *[PATRIOT 6 Aug]* ..... R 2
Direct Intervention in Fiji Situation Ruled Out ..... R 2
FRG To Assist in Metallic Nodule Technology ..... R 2
'Unprecedented' Drought Affects Power in Punjab ..... R 2

IRAN

Tanker Hit by U.S.-Planted Mine in Gulf of Oman ..... S 1
Majlis Speaker Says U.S. 'Possibly' Laid Mine ..... S 1
Interviewed on Gulf Mines ..... S 1
Khamene'i Receives Envoy After Oman Visit ..... S 2
Minesweepers Offered To Clear Waters Near UAE ..... S 2
Tehran Notes UK Decision To Send Minesweepers ..... S 3
UN Envoy on UK Minesweepers ..... S 3
Musavi Condemns U.S. Naval Presence in Gulf ..... S 3
Velayati Sends Letter to Perez de Cuellar ..... S 4
Commentary on Chemical Warfare ..... S 5
FRG Television Interviews Kharazi on Gulf Events *[Mainz ZDF Television]* ..... S 5
Tehran Comments on U.S. Embargo Attempts ..... S 6
Further Reportage, Comment on Violence in Mecca ..... S 7
Saudi, French, U.S. Complicity ..... S 7
Egyptian, Iraqi Commandos ..... S 7
Hajj Supervisor on Corpses' Return ..... S 7
KEYHAN Editorial on Incident *[2 Aug]* ..... S 8
Commentary Views 'Plots' Against Indian Muslims ..... S 9
Chad Condemned for Attacks on 'Libyan Border Areas' ..... S 9
Steel Company Director Returns From USSR Visit ..... S 9
Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue ..... S 10
Iraqi Counterattack Repulsed ..... S 10
Communique No 2,925 ..... S 10
Iraqi Counterattacks 'Repelled' ..... S 10
Iraqi Border Centers Shelled ..... S 10
1,000 Casualties in 'Nasr-7' Area ..... S 10

PAKISTAN

President Condemns Iranian 'Sabotage' in Mecca *[SPA]* ..... V 1
Further Reportage on Mardan Bomb Explosions ..... V 1
Karachi Reports 11 Killed ..... V 1
Leaders Express Sorrow ..... V 1
THE MUSLIM Blames Foreign Policy for Bombings *[26 Jul]* ..... V 1

SRI LANKA

Japanese Foreign Minister Arrives, Makes Statement *[KYODO]* ..... W 1
Delhi Home Guard Units Begin Withdrawing ..... W 1
Moderate Tamil Leaders Planning Return *[AFP]* ..... W 1
LTTE Denies Political Chief in India *[AFP]* ..... W 1

12 August Middle East and South Asia Review

LD121338 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Mines Problem — A Foreign Ministry spokesman declared 12 August that "available evidence" proves the United States or its "hired agents" planted mines in the Gulf and the Sea of Oman, particularly the device which damaged the Panamanian-registered "Texaco Caribbean" off the port of Fujayrah, Tehran radio reported. Iran has formally requested that the UAE and the Shaykhdom of Al-Fujayrah allow Iranian minesweeping ships and helicopters to enter their territorial watters, the spokesman announced, calling for cooperation among regional countries to "neutralize the conspiracy of the United States and its agents." In remarks also carried by the radio, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani had asserted that it was "no accident" that a mine explosion should "involve a U.S. ship and yet also be connected with Iranian oil."

Battlefield Developments — Islamic Revolution Guards Corps combatants repulsed an Iraqi counterattack in the "Nasr-7" region 12 August, Tehran radio reported, noting that the Iraqi forces suffered more than 1,000 casualties and lost a "vast quantity" of materiel. IRNA reported that military and industrial centers near Umm Qasr as well as along the Al-Basrah-Al-'Amarah and Al-Faw-Umm Qasr roads were shelled in retaliation for Iraqi attacks on "civilian and industrial quarters." A military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio noted that four civilians were wounded in Basra and property damaged in Qal'at Dizah when Iranian artillery shells hit residential areas.

Iraqi Diplomacy — Iran's "threats against Kuwait" and "criminal actions" against Saudi Arabia require that Arab nations close ranks to protect their "security and sovereignty," Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz asserted at the end of a brief visit to Kuwait, INA reported, noting that 'Aziz expressed Iraq's "full solidarity" with Kuwait. 'Aziz delivered a message from President Saddam Husayn to Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. The foreign minister also traveled to Jeddah and was received by Saudi King Fahd to whom he delivered a message from President Husayn, SPA reported.

Iran

Accusations on Mecca Clashes — The Mecca "massacre" was a "preplanned plot" by "global arrogance" and was carried out "using Egyptian and Iraqi commandos dispatched to Saudi Arabia, in collaboration with the counterrevolutionary elements," Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi charged in remarks cited by IRNA. According to the "latest reports," Mohtashemi added, some 322 Iranian pilgrims were killed and more than 5,000 injured. He noted that around 60 non-Iranian pilgrims have been identified among the dead in Saudi morgues. The minister also accused Saudi Arabia of mounting a "propaganda tirade" in order to incite "ill will" toward Shi'ites.

In another development, an Iranian hajj official in Mecca disclosed to Tehran radio that Iran has demanded that Saudi Arabia release the names of Iranians in police custody so they may be checked against the list of those missing.

Support for Libya — A Foreign Ministry statement "strongly" condemned the Chadian Government's military action in the Aozou strip and pledged "full support" for Libya in confronting the "plots and aggressions of imperialist powers and their puppet African regimes," IRNA reported.

Libya-Chad

The "aggression" along Libya's "southern border" is an "insult to Africa," according to a spokesman from the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau cited by JANA. The statement, which came at the end of Burkinabe President Thomas Sankara's visit to Libya, noted that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Sankara "exchanged views" on the situation. A "presidential communique" broadcast by Ouagadougou radio announced that Sankara's "impromptu visit" falls within the framework of Burkina Faso's efforts to find a "peaceful solution to the painful conflict." Egypt called for an "urgent meeting" of the special OAU committee dealing with the border dispute, MENA reported.

A "supplemental communique" broadcast by Ndjamena radio updated casualty statistics to 650 Libyans killed in the Aozou battle. According to AFP, the Chadian Embassy in Paris confirmed that in addition to bombing Faya-Largeau, Libyan warplanes attacked Ouadi Doum, Ounianga Kebir, and Aozou.

Sudan

Ethiopian Attack — One person was killed and five wounded 9 August when Ethiopian warplanes attacked an agricultural installation near Al-Qadarif, a "high-level official" announced in a statement to SUNA.

Protest to Iran — The Foreign Ministry summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires to protest "unfounded" reports in the Iranian media that Sudan supports Tehran's position on the recent events in Mecca, SUNA reported 12 August.

Egypt

All Islamic fundamentalists arrested during the period of the April elections have been released from custody, the London paper *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* reported, adding that Interior Minister Zaki Badr has also ordered the release of other detainees who are found innocent of involvement in recent violence and who have no links with "extremist organizations."

Arab Foreign Ministers To Meet in Tunis 'Next Week'

LD101046 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1002 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 10 Aug (KUNA) — Kuwait's *Al-Siyasah* today reports that Arab foreign ministers will hold an emergency meeting in Tunis early next week. The session will be preceded by 1 day by a meeting of the 7-member committee entrusted with following up developments in the Iraq-Iran war.

Citing unnamed sources, the paper says that during the last 2 days Tunisia has received unqualified agreement from a number of Arab countries for the convening of a meeting to discuss recent developments in the Gulf.

So far Kuwait, Jordan, Iraq, and the PLO have announced their agreement to attend the emergency meeting which, *Al-Siyasah* notes, will be held on 16 and 17 August in Tunis. [passage omitted]

Council To Convene 15 Aug

LD101749 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] The deputy prime minister and foreign minister [Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah] has announced that the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council, requested by Tunisia to be held at the foreign ministerial level, will be convened at the Arab League headquarters in Tunis. Responding to a question by KUNA, he stated that there is a proposal to hold the meeting on 15 August and that Kuwait has agreed to attend at the time and venue to be arranged.

In this regard, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah received the ambassador to Tunisia and that country's permanent representative at the Arab League, who briefed him on matters relating to this meeting and the current consultations being made to convene it. The ambassador will leave Kuwait for Tunis tomorrow to take part in preparations for the meeting.

ICO's Pirzada Supports Saudi Security Measures

LD022326 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1640 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] Jeddah, 2 Aug (SPA) — ICO Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada has expressed great concern over the demagogic march organized by some Iranian pilgrims in the holy city of Mecca that claimed the lives of pilgrims and innocent citizens.

In a press statement, the ICO secretary general appealed for adherence to the regulations laid down on performing the pilgrimage rites, to respect the sacred rites, and to adhere to the holy Koran's teachings and to the prophet's words. Pirzada expressed his appreciation for the Kingdom's great efforts, led by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to guarantee the security and safety of all God's guests.

Soviet Leadership Sends Message on Gulf to Klibi

LD111459 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1358 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, 11 Aug (KUNA) — Chedli Klibi, the secretary general of the Arab League, today received here a message from the Soviet leadership on the latest developments in the Arab Gulf region.

The message was presented by T. Karakhanov, the Soviet charge d'affaires in Tunis, during his meeting with Mr Klibi this afternoon.

The Soviet charge d'affaires explained his country's position with regard to the situation in the Gulf and its assessment of what is taking place there.

FANT Issues Further Communique on Aozou Action

AB111333 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1309 GMT 11 Aug 87

["Communique No 67" issued by the FANT High Command on 11 August in Ndjamena]

[Text] A supplemental communique to Communique No 66 on the partial outcome of the Aozou battle on 8 August: On the enemy side, some 650 Libyans were killed. There were also 147 Libyans taken prisoner, including (Abdis Muhammad 'Ali), the commander of the Aozou military headquarters, and the following officers of his general staff: Captain (Honize Abd-al-Medi), Lieutenant ('Abd al-Salam Ramadan), Lieutenant (Abd-al-Qadir Musa), Lieutenant (Hammad Muradi Yunis), Lieutenant (Aleh Abdoul), Second Lieutenant (Hamid Mahamane Hammad 'Abd-al-Rahman), [words indistinct including names].

The following equipment was seized: [words indistinct] 24 Toyotas equipped with 14.5-mm guns; [figure indistinct] jeeps equipped with 106-mm guns; 52 Toyota troop carriers; 8 heavy-duty Mercedes trucks; 6 Mercedes water tankers; and a sizeable quantity of light weapons and ammunition.

The following equipment was destroyed: (?16) Toyotas [words indistinct]; 12 Mercedes water tankers; 10 Toyotas equipped with 14.5-mm guns; 9 BMP armored personnel carriers; [words indistinct]; 13 jeeps equipped with 106-mm guns; 11 Mercedes heavy-duty trucks; (?13) Toyota troop carriers; [words indistinct].

President Issues Decree on Cabinet Reshuffle

AB111606 Paris AFP French 1123 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Ndjamena, 11 Aug (AFP) — Here is the list of the new Chadian Government following the cabinet reshuffle, in which members of the former opposition were appointed, carried out by President Hissein Habre last night:

Minister of State: Djidingar Dono Ngardoum (unchanged)

Minister of National Defense: Hissein Habre (unchanged)

Minister of Foreign Affairs: Gouara Lassou (unchanged)

Minister of Interior and Territorial Administration: Ibrahim Mohamat Itno (unchanged)

Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals: Negue Djibril Djogo (unchanged)

Minister of Plan and Cooperation: Soumaila Mahamat

Minister of Public Health: Mahamat Senoussi Khatir

Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation: Abdoulaye Douto

Minister of Agriculture: Wadal Abdel Kader Kamougue

Minister of Finance and Computerization: Ngarnayal Mbailemdana (unchanged)

Minister of Information and Civic Orientation: Adoum Moussa Seif

Minister of Mines and Energy: Colonel Alphonse Kotiga Guerina

Minister of Commerce and Industry: Bilal Soubiane [name as received]

Minister of Public Works, Housing, and Urbanism: Kassire Delwa Coumakoye

Minister of Livestock and Rural Water: Seid Bauche

Minister of Social Affairs and Promotion of Women: Mrs Ruth Yaneko Romba (unchanged)

Minister of National Education: Mahamat Nour Mallaye

Minister of Tourism and Environment: Naimbaye M'bailao Lossimian (unchanged)

Minister of Posts and Telecommunications: Assileck Halata (unchanged)

Minister of Labor and Employment: Oudalbaye Naham (unchanged)

Minister of Food Security and Afflicted Groups: Ahmed Senoussi Wadal

Ministeb of Civil Service: Routouang Yoma Golom (unchanged)

Minister of Culture, Youth, and Sports: Djibrine Houssein Grinki (unchanged)

Minister Adviser at the Presidency of the Republic: Ouangmoutching Homsala

Minister Delegate to the Presidency for General Inspectorate and State Control: Korom Ahmed

Secretary of State for Interior and Territorial Administration: Mbairaroua Ndeirebeu

Secretary of State for Plan and Cooperation: Saleh Mahreb

Secretary of State for Public Health: Pierre Tokino (unchanged)

Secretary of State for Agriculture: Moukhtar Bachar Moukhtar

Secretary of State for Finance and Computerization: Brahim Seid (unchanged)

Secretary of State for Commerce and Industry: Amos Reoulengar (unchanged)

Secretary of State for Public Works, Housing, and Urbanism: Ahmid Moussaye

Secretary of State for Livestock and Rural Water: Abderrahmane Salah

Secretary of State for National Education: Henri Ngargos Mosnda

Secretary General of the Government: Youssouf Sidi Sougoumi (unchanged)

Deputy Secretary General of the Government: Mbailao Beral Moise (unchanged)

GUNT's Goukouni Demands End to Fighting

AB111721 Paris AFP in French 1634 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Paris, 11 Aug (AFP) — The former GUNT president [Goukouni Oueddei] today "demanded" an end to the fighting between Libyan forces and the FANT. He additionally called for a peaceful settlement to the border conflict between the two countries under the OAU's auspices.

In a communique published in Paris, the GUNT president, who resides in Algiers, stated his readiness to continue negotiations with the Ndjamena regime. He called on "all GUNT factions to prepare themselves for any eventuality." Mr Goukouni, who observed that the "tragic military events of 8 August in the Chad-Libya border area" (the capture of Aozou by the FANT) have "incalculable and unforeseen consequences for the zone and the subregion," condemned "any aggravation of the situation" and called for an immediate end to combat operations. He once again reaffirmed his constant position favoring a peaceful settlement to the border conflict, in accordance with the provisions of the OAU Charterand the resolution of the recent OAU summit.

Mr Goukouni also reaffirmed that "national unity, which can only be achieved through a true reconciliation of all Chad's sons, is the best guarantee for defending the country's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity."

The communique additionally deplores the fact that "contrary to its declarations, the Ndjamena government still continues to display and has again displayed its attachment to partial solutions; that is to say, the rallying of individuals rather than a comprehensive and just peaceful solution, as reflected by the recent cabinet reshuffle."

President Habre reshuffled his cabinet yesterday and announced the appointment of several opposition leaders, including Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue, a former GUNT vice president.

In conclusion, Goukouni Oueddei expressed "his readiness to continue negotiations with the Ndjamena regime to complete the national reconciliation process." He launched an "urgent" appeal to all GUNT components to "mobilize themselves and remain vigilant for a new drive to prepare for any eventuality."

Another component of the opposition, the Neo-GUNT, is headed by Acheikh ibn Oumar, who lives in exile in Libya.

On Possible Al-Qadhdhafi Ties

LD112242 Paris International Service in French 2030 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text][Announcer] The most important new position taken today on the Chadian affair is that of the GUNT president. Goukouni Oueddei reacted to the capture of Aozou by Hissein Habre's army by referring to it as reckless:

[Begin recording] [Goukouni] What happened in the area on 8 August runs the risk of seriously endangering the situation, the very lives of the region's people, and even of providing Libya the chance to unleash an open war that would be [words indistinct] fatal to Chad.

[Unidentified correspondent] You are to some extent reproaching President Habre for having retaken Aozou.

[Goukouni] (?It is Chadian land). I would not condemn Habre for having attacked the Aozou Strip, but the manner in which he did this leads us to oppose his actions. Chad's internal dispute should be settled first and then Libya would be forced to accept resorting to peaceful means to solve the matter. [end recording]

[Announcer] So Goukouni states: first national reconciliation. In this respect the GUNT president is not satisfied with the government reshuffle decided upon in Ndjamena. Hissein Habre brought onto his team Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue, the southern leader; Alphonse Kotiga, the former leader of the Codos rebels; and two figures belonging to Goukouni Oueddei's former People's Armed Forces. Goukouni Oueddei reacts strongly to this; he does not rule out a new alliance with Libya. Here he is:

[Begin Goukouni recording] Following this latest reshuffle by Hissein Habre, the chances of talks for national reconciliation are very, very, very slim. Because of this, everyone must organize accordingly. In my view, Hissein intends to exclude me in order to give more importance to (?have beens). I made an enormous number of concessions: I delivered all my men, together with their arms, to Hissein Habre so that his forces and mine could alter the situation within the country. Second, I accepted that Hissein should be recognized as president, the head of the Chadian state. I am perhaps prepared to make concessions on the four points on which we differ, but I am not prepared to humble myself or to be struck off unconditionally. But the steps taken by FANT now make me say that what remains between us and Ndjamena is a confrontation.

[Correspondent] You are not closing the door to a possible, new alliance with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, are you?

[Goukouni] It is too early to say, but the position I will take may lead me to conclude an alliance with (?anyone in order to fight him). [end recording]

French Minister: Conflict 'Exclusively Chadian'
LD120925 Paris Domestic Service in French
0600 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Libya rejects any idea of a dialogue with the Chadian authorities on the Aozou Strip's sovereignty. Furthermore, despite the intensified Libyan air strikes in northern Chad, Defense Minister Andre Giraud rules out any French military intervention. He explained this to Fabric Lequintrec:

[Begin Giraud recording] Naturally, we are continuing our support of Chad so it remains a sovereign state enjoying territorial integrity. On the other hand, we have recommended that the Aozou dispute be resolved through diplomatic channels and, as the president [Francois Mitterand] has indicated, recent events there are the result of an initiative by the Chadian Government that solely concerns that government. We do not intend to get mixed up in this affair, an affair that is exclusively Chadian. The dispute is probably going to continue since diplomatic efforts undertaken by the OAU have not been successful. This is apparently because Libya does not wish to contribute to these negotiations. Consequently, one may expect the dispute to last a long time. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Ghali Appeals to Libya, Chad To Stop Fighting
NC111251 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 11 Aug (MENA) — Egypt has called for an urgent meeting of the OAU committee which was formed to deal with the dispute between Libya and Chad in order to discuss the military conflict on the Libyan-Chadian border. On behalf of Egypt, Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has appealed to the belligerents to exercise self-control, to stop the bloodshed, and to avoid any escalation of the situation. Dr Ghali stated that Egypt is closely following what is now going on in the Aozou area and views the matter with the utmost concern. He also urged both parties to the conflict not to exacerbate the situation but to seek a peaceful settlement.

'Abd al-Majid Chairs Committee Meeting on Tabah
NC111552 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 11 Aug (MENA) — A meeting of the Egyptian Higher National Committee on Tabah was held today under the chairmanship of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The committee discussed in detail all of the developments in connection with the Tabah issue, as well as the preparation of the Egyptian memorandum which will be presented to the panel of arbitrators at its forthcoming session in Geneva on 13 October.

The Geneva session is part of the procedure established by the arbitral compromis document signed by Egypt and Israel on 12 September 1986.

At the recent arbitration panel session in Geneva last Mai, both the Egyptians and the Israelis presented their primary defense memoranda.

Today's meeting was attended by law, history, and geography experts, as well as other Tabah specialists at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. Dr Nabil al-'Arabi, head of the Foreign Ministry's Legal Department, and ambassador Badr Hamman, head of the Foreign Ministry's Israeli desk, also attended the meeting.

'Abd al-Majid, Israeli Ambassador Discuss Peace
NC111410 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 11 Aug (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Israeli ambassador to Cairo Moshe Sason today. Their discussion centered on the Middle East peace process.

Minister Leads Military Delegation to Iraq
NC111929 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 11 Aug (MENA) — Lieutenant General Ahmad Salah al-Din, the assistant defense minister, left Cairo for Iraq this afternoon at the head of a military delegation. The delegation will stay in Iraq for several days.

'Bright Star' News Coverage Said 'Forbidden'
NC111407 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] The Egyptian Foreign Ministry announced today that news coverage of the joint Egyptian-U.S. "Bright Star" maneuvers, which are to begin on Saturday [15 August], is absolutely forbidden.

Detained Members of Islamic Groups Said Released
NC111131 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Aug 87 p 1

[Excerpt] Cairo, *Al-Sharq al-Awsat — Al-Sharq al-Awsat* has learned that the Egyptian Interior Ministry has released all members of Islamic groups who were arrested before and during the 6 April parliamentary elections. Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr also ordered the release of most of those arrested in the wake of recent acts of violence in Egypt, particularly those who were proved not to have been involved in these acts and not to belong to the extremist organizations, whose members had been arrested recently. These organizations include the Jihad and one other one. The detained members of these organizations have been referred to the state security prosecutor for interrogation. [passage omitted]

African Envoys Condemn Al-Azhar Student Riots
NC111840 Cairo MENA in English 1620 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, Aug 11 (MENA) — Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Shaykh Jad al-Haq 'Ali Jad al-Haq today conferred with the heads of African missions in Cairo on the services provided by Al-Azhar to the Muslims of African states. Al-Azhar grants scholarships to thousands of African Muslims and sends ulema to African countries at the request of African governments. It also provides African schools with religious references and textbooks.

The heads of African missions voiced deep appreciation of the historical role played by Al-Azhar to serve Islam and to embrace thousands of African students at different Al-Azhar institutes.

The heads of African missions voiced their utter condemnation of the riots carried out by a minority of African students who staged demonstrations and damaged buildings of the foreign students' hostel, reiterating that this approach is unacceptable. They appealed to the grand imam for continued embracement of thousands of African students so that they could learn at Al-Azhar institutes.

Shaykh Jad al-Haq reiterated that Al-Azhar will not hesitate to fulfill its message. In this context, he asked the heads of African missions to enlighten African students on Egyptian laws and to direct them to focus on their study so that they could serve their countries as best as possible when they return home.

Iran's Sheykh ol-Eslam Arrives on Visit 11 Aug

LD112000 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] This evening, Brother Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, Iranian deputy foreign minister, arrived in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Reportage on Burkinabe President Sankara's Visit

Arrives in Tripoli 11 Aug

LD111130 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1045 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 11 Aug (JANA) — Colonel [as received] Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Revolutionary Council of the jamahiriyah of Burkina, arrived in Tripoli this morning on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Meets Al-Qadhdhafi; Statement Released

LD111932 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Aug (JANA) — A People's Foreign Liaison Bureau spokesman has made the following press statement:

Colonel [as received] Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Revolutionary Council of Burkina Faso, paid a brief visit to the Great Jamahiriyah today, during which he met the brother leader of the revolution. They exchanged views on the aggression that the southern border of the Great Jamahiriyah has been subject to.

The statement notes the Jamahiriyah's appreciation for the peace efforts exerted by Col Thomas Sankara, National Revolutionary Council chairman, who arrived in the Jamahiriyah at a critical time for Africa, as well as its understanding of his efforts. Within this context, it appreciates the steps taken by Col Thomas Sankara at the end of the recent OAU summit — a step made out of his respect for the resolutions of the African summit and the African presidents taking part. The Great Jamahiriyah expresses its indignation because, despite OAU calls, the agent Habre has committed aggression against the southern border of the Great Jamahiriyah, thus ignoring all OAU efforts.

This aggression is an insult to Africa and all African presidents, and belittles OAU resolutions. The statement confirmed that the Great Jamahiriyah, in the face of this aggression, knows how to respond to aggression without affecting its readiness to work toward consolidating efforts to achieve peace in Africa.

The Great Jamahiriyah, as a revolutionary country, adheres to the work for peace and against imperialist maneuvers in the interest of the peoples of Africa.

Departs Tripoli 11 Aug

LD111939 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1934 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Aug (JANA) — Colonel [as received] Thomas Sankara, National Revolutionary Council chairman of Burkina Faso, and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli this evening after a short visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. The guest was accorded an official send-off at a ceremony led by Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, general commander of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces; the secretary of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau; a number of officers of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces; and Burkina Faso's ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Suriname Chief of Staff Arrives on Visit

LD051023 Tripoli JANA in English 0922 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 5, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The Suriname Chief of Staff Ivan Graanoogst arrived in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Ethiopian MIG Fighters Attack Al-Qadarif Area

JN121041 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Kassala/Sudan/ Aug 12 (SUNA) — Two Ethiopian MIG fighters Sunday attacked an eastern Sudan agriculture camp, killing one woman, wounding five others and inflicting substantial damages in the area, a high level official said in a statement to SUNA Tuesday.

The area, Al-Qadarif, raided by the Ethiopian fighters is some 120 km east of here on the Sudanese-Ethiopian borders.

The official pointed out that Sudanese regular forces are currently assessing the casualities.

Ethiopian Forces 'Guarding' Addis Ababa Embassy

EA092050 Khartoum SUNA in English 1630 GMT 9 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 9th Aug — The Ethiopian authorities has [as received] arrested many of the Sudanese nationals, accusing them for spying for the benefit of the Eritrean Revolution and Garang movement, the National Islamic Front mouthpiece *Al-Rayah* published here today reported. The Ethiopian authorities put the arrested into prison without presenting them for trial, the paper added.

The Ethiopian security forces are currently guarding the Sudanese Embassy in Addis Ababa, searching for a Sudanese national who has escaped from Garang army in order to arrest him, the paper reported. The paper pointed out that a Sudanese student has been arrested for the same reasons.

Foreign Ministry Clarifies Stance on Mecca Incident

Support for Iran Denied

JN121035 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, Aug 12 (SUNA) — The Sudanese Foreign Ministry yesterday summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires to the Sudan and officially protested news disseminated by Iranian mass media about an alleged Sudanese support for Iran in the recent incidents that took place in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

These news reports are "unfounded" and "do not reflect the outcome" of the encounter that had taken place between the prime minister and the visiting Iranian delegation, an official source at the Foreign Ministry said.

The source told SUNA that the meeting between Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and a visiting Iranian delegation, of current Aug. 8, had mainly dealt to the Sudanese Government. [sentence as received]

It pointed out that the Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has reciprocated a message to the Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i.

What the prime minister said to the Iranian deputation was in the framework of the Sudanese declared position, the Foreign Ministry source affirmed. Pointing out that the details of the meeting "do not contradict the declared policies of the Sudan towards the issue of the Gulf region developments and the recent events in the Muslims' holiest shrine of Mecca.

It is to be recalled that the official Iranian news agency IRNA has reported that the Sudan backs the position of Iran in the recent incidents that took place in the holy city of Mecca and the Gulf developments in general.

The Foreign Ministry official has also stressed that any announcement in the name of the Sudan about these issues will hamper Sudan's goodwill moves for avoiding more escalation in the region.

The source concluded its statement to SUNA by pinpointing that Sudan has good relations with Saudi Arabia and that the diffusion of such news would negatively affect these relations, "a matter unacceptable to the Sudan."

Saudi Position, Rights Upheld

JN121056 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, Aug 12 (SUNA) — The Sudanese Foreign Ministry has emphasised Saudi Arabia's right to defend the holy sites and preserve their sanctity.

The Foreign Minister Muhammad Tawfiq, who received the Saudi charge d'affaires yesterday, noted that the Kingdom has the right of implementing its laws and regulations on its territory to preserve dignity of Islam and Muslims.

The Saudi diplomat has earlier handed messages to the Chairman of the Supreme Council Ahmad A. al-Mirghani and the Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi on the recent incidents that took placed in Saudi Arabia and on bilateral relations between Saudi Arabia and the Sudan.

Saudi Envoy Delivers Video of Mecca Riot

EA102106 Khartoum SUNA in French 1530 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Aug (SUNA) — Mr Ahmad al-Mirchani,chairman of the Supreme State Council, received a message from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. The message, which was delivered by the Saudi charge d'affaires to Khartoum, gave details of the recent incidents at the Mecca mosque, caused mainly by Iranians.

The Saudi diplomat added that he had handed over a video cassette containing details of the recent Mecca events.

DPRK Parliamentarians Arrive for Visit 10 Aug

EA102007 Khartoum SUNA in English 1626 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Aug — A parliamentarian delegation from the Democratic Republic of Korea arrived here today on a three-day official visit to the Sudan during which it will have talks with senior government and opposition leaders. The Korean delegation is headed by Mr Juag Nam-kim [name as received],

member of the Korean National Assembly. The Korean official told SUNA that the visit's aim was to boost and further develop relations and cooperation between the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Korea.

The delegation, comprising five parliamentarians, will meet deputy speaker of the Sudanese Assembly, Hasan 'Abd al-Qadir; the majority leader, Prof Salah 'Abd al-Rahman 'Ali Taha; Islamic opposition leader 'Ali 'Uthman; and the democratic opposition leader, Izz al-Din 'Ali Amir. It will also have talks with the foreign minister, Muhammad Tawfiq; the premier, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi; and the Supreme Council chairman, Ahmad al-Mirghani.

SPLA Claims Government Massacres 17 Civilians

EA111625 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Excerpts] SPLA sources have furnished Radio SPLA with a list of names of 17 citizens murdered in cold blood by a Khartoum government army force under the command of Major Muhammad (Bereyma) on 21 July 1987. The 17, who included three old women and two young girls, were captured by the Khartoum government force that came to the Zaribah-Kurmuk area from Damazin on the allegation that they were SPLA sympathizers, and eventually machine-gunned to death at their village of (Wolu). [passage omitted]

The official SPLM/SPLA spokesman has called on Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to have Maj Muhammad (Bereyma), who was responsible for the murder of the 17 innocent civilians, brought to justice for the wanton killing of citizens who have no relationship with the SPLA whatsoever. According to the spokesman, it wasincumbent upon members of the Constituent Assembly from south and north (Kunj) to raise this issue in the Assembly so that the culprits are promptly brought to justice, and similar atrocities prevented from occurring again.

SPLA Says 'No Difficulty' in Expanding Activities

EA101908 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Commenting on the recent statement by the Khartoum government on the military situation in Southern Kurdufan, the official spokesman for SPLM/SPLA has said that the penetration of the SPLA forces of Volcano into the interior of Southern Kurdufan, despite attempts to stop them, was a major military and political breakthrough. The spokesman expressed confidence that the Al-Sadiq government would not be able to undermine the movement's military presence in Southern Kurdufan, as well as other parts of the north, because its presence, he said, was based on the consent of the people in those areas. The SPLM/SPLA finds no difficulty in expanding its activities to include different parts of the Sudan because the oppressed masses in the various regions and localities of Sudan have decided to take up arms and fight in the SPLM/SPLA for the attainment of equality and justice for all citizens, the spokesman concluded.

KUWAIT

Iraqi Minister 'Aziz Expresses 'Full Solidarity'

LD111422 Kuwait KUNA in English 1340 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Kuwait, Aug 11 (KUNA) — Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz Tuesday voiced his country's full solidarity with Kuwait in the face of Iranian threats.

Speaking to reporters here 'Aziz said he delivered to H.H. the amir a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn stating "Iraq's full solidarity with our brethren in Kuwait, and dealing with developments in our region."

Commenting on the talks which had held with his Kuwaiti opposite number Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad after his audience with the amir, the Iraqi official said they had tackled the situation in the region and preparations to hold a meeting in Tunis of Arab foreign ministers.

'Aziz added that Iraq sees a strong reason for the Arab foreign ministers' meeting.

"Iraq believes the threats faced by the Arab states in the region represented by the Iranian aggression on Iraq, and the continuing threats against Kuwait, and the criminal deeds which targetted the security of Saudi Arabia require strong Arab solidarity," he went on.

"A clear and solid Arab stand which shields the security and sovereignty of Arab countries, and shows any aggressor and the world at large that the Arab nation is capable of confronting the aggressor is necessary," the Iraqi official pointed out.

'Aziz said the "amicable and fraternal spirit of the talks reflected the advanced level of relations between Iraq and Kuwait." [passage omitted]

Meets With Amir 11 Aug

JN111421 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1238 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 11 Aug (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, this morning conveyed a message to His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, from President Saddam Husayn. The message discussed bilateral relations and issues of common interest, and was given to the Kuwait amir during his meeting with the Iraqi envoy here this morning. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Kuwait attended the meeting. [passage omitted]

PDRY

Upcoming Exercises Seen as Serving U.S. Interests

LD112030 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1805 GMT 11 Aug 87

[From "What the Press Says" program]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The newspaper *Arbatashar Uktubar* discusses Egypt's and Jordan's announcement of joint military exercises with the United States. The newspaper states that joint exercises with the United States have always been a bridge serving Washington's aggressive and expansionist policies, at the expense of our Arab people's vital cause and their legitimate, just, and inalienable rights.

The newspaper wonders in whose interests the joint exercises are being held when there is already a large U.S. military presence in the Gulf region. In whose interests are the joint military exercises under critical economic conditions, suspect democracy, and innumerable problems? [sentence as heard]

The military exercises, the newspaper notes, are in the interests of Washington, its new and old fleets, and its interference in the affairs of our Arab people. The Arab people are more than ever aware that the United States has never been and can never be the Arabs' ally, although there are still some who either cannot read or will not admit that Israel is a strategic ally of the United States.

The newspaper concludes by urging support for the democratic nationalist Arab countries opposed to U.S. and reactionary designs. The paper asks the vanguard of the Arab people to intensify their meetings and consultations to stand against the policies of deception and [words indistinct] at the expense of the Arab people.

SAUDI ARABIA

35 Nationals 'Confined' in Tehran Apartments

NC111440 Paris AFP in English 1423 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Aug 11 (AFP) — Thirty-five Saudi nationals are being confined to two Tehran apartments while the fate of one Saudi diplomat still remains unknown, the *Saudi Gazette* reported here Tuesday.

"We are good. We are good. Don't worry. Pray for us. We will be back," members of the Saudi legation told the newspaper by telephone from one of the two flats where the Saudi diplomats and their families are reportedly being held.

Following the July 31 riots in Mecca — where Saudi officials say 275 Iranians, 85 Saudis and 42 pilgrims of other nationalities died — both the Saudi and Kuwaiti Embassies in Tehran were sacked and diplomatic personnel confined.

London-based Iranian dissidents told the newspaper it seems likely that the 35 will be kept in Tehran until all Iranian pilgrims, as well as the bodies of the dead, return to Iran.

That thesis was supported by former Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar, who said the matter of the Saudi legation could become an impasse similar to those which occurred following the deterioration of Tehran's relations with London and Paris.

There has been no word on the fate of Saudi political attache Musa'id al-Ghamadi who was badly injured when he reportedly jumped from a window during the Iranian attack on the embassy, the *Gazette* said.

Members of the Saudi legation said they had been assured by the Iranians that they would be allowed to visit Mr. al-Ghamadi but had so far been refused permission.

Several of the Saudi diplomats told the newspaper they had been struck by demonstrators during the takeover. Rida Nuzsa, the embassy's administrative officer, said he suffered an eye injury and had only recovered 30 per cent of his vision in that eye following an emergency operation.

Iraqi Prime Minister Arrives in Jeddah 11 Aug

LD111636 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 11 Aug (SPA) — His Excellency Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, arrived late this afternoon in Jeddah on a visit to the Kingdom. He was welcomed at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the minister of foreign affairs. [passage omitted]

Received by King Fahd

LD112133 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2105 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Jeddah, 11 Aug (SPA) — King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, received a message from his brother, His Excellency Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi president.

The message was delivered to him by His Excellency Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, when the custodian of the two holy mosques received him at his office in Al-Salam Castle this evening.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, and Iraq's ambassador to the Kingdom, 'Abd al-Malik al-Yasin.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Iraq's Tariq 'Aziz Arrives With Message 12 Aug

JN121026 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 12 Aug

[Text] Sanaa, 12 Aug (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister and President Saddam Husayn's envoy, arrived here today on a visit to the YAR.

In his arrival statement to INA the president's envoy said he is carrying a verbal message from President Saddam Husayn to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He said the message expresses deep sentiments of affection and brotherliness to his excellency and to the fraternal Yemeni people. The message also expresses great appreciation for the pan-Arab stands of solidarity by the YAR — its president, government, and people — with Iraq in its just battle to defend its territory and sovereignty. He added that the message also deals with current developments in the region and the necessary steps to reinforce Arab solidarity to confront the dangers threatening the Arab nation in general and the region's states in particular.

Communique No 2,774 Details Combat 10-11 Aug

JN111637 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Communique No 2,774 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 11 August 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our brave Armed Forces are continuing to inflict further losses on the aggressors with their combat activities.

The following is a roundup of combat activities for last night and today:

1. Our heroic Air Force carried out 42 combat missions today, inflicting important losses on enemy personnel, weaponry, and equipment. Our aircraft then returned safely to base, God be praised.

2. The Army's brave helicopter gunships continued their combat operations, inflicting new losses on the aggressors in 35 combat missions. Our helicopters then returned safely to base in God's care.

3. Our brave units in the I Army Corps northern sector inflicted important losses on the Khomeyniites by achieving the following: 10 enemy personnel killed; 12 infantry positions destroyed; 1 tank burned and destroyed; and 3 ammunition dumps detonated.

Elsewhere in this sector, an enemy patrol attempted to approach one of our forward units. However, one of our units confronted it and killed seven enemy personnel, while the remainder of the patrol fled.

4. Four enemy personnel were killed and one infantry position was destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. Three enemy personnel were killed and one ammunition dump was destroyed in the VII Army Corps front.

6. An enemy vehicle carrying a 106-mm gun was destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

7. One ammunition dump was blown up in the operational sector of the Special I Army Corps, the Allahu Akbar Forces.

8. Our brave naval forces sighted five large enemy boats attempting to approach the Al-'Amiq Port. Our forces then confronted them and forced them to flee.

9. Using long-range artillery, the unjust ruling clique in Tehran shelled residential areas in the steadfast city of Basra and the township of Qal'at Dizah. Four citizens were wounded and one car was damaged in Basra, while a number of houses and property in the township of Qal'at Dizah were also damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 August 1987

UN Informed Iran Shelling Qal'at Dizah, Basra

JN111645 Baghdad INA in English 1540 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] United Nations, 11 Aug (INA) — Iraq informed the U.N. Security Council today that the arrogant Iranian regime continues to perpetrate criminal acts of aggression against peaceful Iraqi citizens.

In a letter addressed to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iraqi alternate permanent representative to the U.N. 'Ali Mahmud Sumayda informs that during the period Aug. 1-9 the Iranian regime shelled residential areas in the town of Qal'at Dizah twice and residential quarters in the city of Basra three times.

The criminal action resulted in the death of four civilians, including a child and a woman, and the wounding of 16 others, as well as causing damage to civilian property.

Iranian Opposition Statement Cited on Mecca Events

JN061506 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Text] London, 6 Aug (INA) — Intelligence information on the the activities of the Iranian regime has revealed that Iran some time ago planned a major destructive and terrorist plot to incite trouble in Mecca during the pilgrimage prayers and rites. The Iranian regime dispatched many of its officials, including members of the Iranian Cabinet, 20 members of the so-called parliament, and several of its well-known figures to Mecca to carry out the plot.

In a press statement issued yesterday, the Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq organization declared that the Iranian regime had officially asked Iranian officials to participate in this plot. This request was transmitted in an official message addresed to Iranian pilgrims 3 days before the criminal acts committed in Mecca by mobs sent there for this purpose began.

The organization asserted that the final touches on how to implement the plot had been decided only a few days before the criminal aggression in Mecca. This was accomplished at a meeting that was attended by three committees representing the Iranian regime and its agents in Lebanon. The organization also noted that some of the participants at this meeting had traveled from Medina to Mecca to supervise the Khomeyniite plot's implementation.

The organization then listed the names of these persons. They included Brigadier General Sayyed Shirazi, former head of the Iranian Army and Khomeyni's representative on the Iranian Supreme Defense Council; Mehdi Kharrubi, president of the regime's organization of mercenaries and Khomeyni's representative for this years's pilgrimage; Ahmad Azizi, chairman of the Majlis foreign relations committee [title as received]; Soltani, chairman of the Majlis economic committee; Mohammad Javad Hojjat Karamani, cultural adviser to 'Ali Khamene'i; Nahavandian, adviser at the Iranian Foreign Ministry [title as received]; Hamidzadeh; Fazel-Harandi; and Hashimfari.

The list also included the names of some well-known figures in the Iranian regime who had played a direct role in this criminal action. These are: Mohammad Gharazi, minister of post, telegraph, and telephone; Sadiq Khalkhali; Hadi Ghafari; Fakhreddin Hejazi; 'Abbas Duzduzani; Hadi Najafabadi; Qorban 'Ali Dori-Najafabadi [name as received]; Najavanabadi; Rasul Montaja-Nia [name as received]; Mohammad Reza Vaghfi; Mohammad Marqi; 'Ali Nazeri Mutafarred; Mohammad Alavi-Musavi; Mehdi Qa'emifard-Siamavi-Malakuti; Mehdi Shamlu-Mahmudi; 'Ali Uramian; Fakhreddin Hashemi-Khan-Kohandani; and Safoji [name as received].

The Mojahedin-e Khalq organization affirmed that a number of so-called men of religion, along with some government officials, had participated in this ugly conspiracy. Among them are Abol Qasim Ghazali, member of the so-called Council of Guardians; Moqtada, spokesman for the so-called Supreme Judicial Council; Mahdavi-Kani Malakuti, a Friday imam from Tabriz; Javad Amoli, member of the Qom religious society; Anvari, a Friday imam from Bijar; Dr Seyfollah Vahid-Dastjerdi, chairman of the Iranian Red Crescent Society [title as received]; Dr Iftekhar, the regime's deputy prime minister [name and title as received]; Ahmad Bariq, adviser to the prime minister [name and title as received]; Mortazafar, a prayer caller from the Qom group; and one of Khomeyni's wives.

The organization also explained that some Iranian Army and Khomeyni Guards officers had participated in the conspiracy. They included: Brigadier General Baba'i, deputy director of Air Force operations; Colonel Gholami, acting director of Air Force operations; Colonel Martatavi, commander of the 28th Brigade; Iraj Majdi, the Ramadan headquarters chief of staff; Hoseynollah Kiram [name as received], commander of the Al-Najaf Command operations; 'Abbas Mohtaj, deputy commander of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Falah, deputy commander of the special 55th Division; Tabataba'i, publicity officer of the Guards Corps Central Commission; Zia, commander of the Guards Corps operations and planning for the Air Force; and Mir Mohammad, commander of the Guards Corps in Semnan.

The organization stated that according to information it had received, Mehdi Kharrubi, Mohammad Gharazi, Hadi Gharazi, Fakhreddin Hejazi, Javad Amoli, Anvari, and Mortazafar personally led the criminal operations in Mecca. The organization's statement cited Ma'sud Rajavi, head of the Iranian National Resistance Council, as asserting that the Iranian regime is intensifying terrorism inside and outside Iran with the aim of distracting attention from the just Iranian people's resistance for freedom and peace.

AL-JUMHIRIYAH Scores Syrian Figure's Tehran Trip

!N071039 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 7 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Aug (INA) — According to today's edition of *Al-Jumhiriyah* published in Baghdad, any aggression contemplated by the ruling Zionists in Tehran must necessarily involve the rulers of Damascus, if only in the coordination and consultative stages. In an editorial, the newspaper stated that the rulers of Damascus have consistently been available to lend a hand every time the Zionists of Tehran have received a setback or been in a difficult position. This has always been at the expense of Arab blood, stability, and legitimate pan-Arab interests, the newspaper added.

The most recent trip to Tehran by Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian regime's foreign minister, came in the context of the sordid, treasonous role the rulers of Damascus have assigned themselves, *Al-Jumhiriyah* declared.

Rather than denouncing the crimes of the rulers of Iran and their henchmen — violating the sanctity of the Mecca grand mosque, threatening the lives of pilgrims, and tampering with the security of a sisterly Arab state — or being moved by the burning of the Kuwait Embassy and the destruction of the Saudi Embassy in Tehran and then hinting at solidarity or even regret, Faruq al-Shar' flew to Tehran to offer condolences, consulted with his Khomeyniite brothers, and set about attacking Arab quarters by calling them plotters against Iran's rulers, the newspaper added. This is not surprising, however. Al-Shar', who was moved neither by the sight of Iraqi blood shed in the cause of defending Damascus and keeping it from falling into Zionist hands nor by the sight of the burning Kuwaiti and Saudi Embassies, can well be expected to come to the rescue of the henchmen of crime, injustice, and sabotage, stated *Al-Jumhiriyah*.

Referring to a statement by Al-Shar' that he feared the war will turn into one between Arabs and Persians, the newspaper emphasized that the Zionist Khomeyniites had from the start wanted it this way, as is evinced by all their utterances and actions. The paper declared that the Khomeyniites are engaged in brazenly offensive and hostile actions against Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and are aiming at all Arab countries without exception. This is what the war is all about: Persians versus Arabs — a fact that cannot be distorted by Al-Shar' or anyone else, the newspaper continued. If the rulers of Damascus have opted out of the war, it is because they have betrayed the Arab nation and taken the side of the Iranians from the start. *Al-Jumhiriyah* concluded: Al-Shar's statements will not succeed in concealing the Arab victory realized by the unity of the valiant Iraqis.

Peres Comments on Peace Process, Lavi Project
TA120607 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0405 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by political editor Gid'on Remez in Peres' residence and David Grossman in the studio — live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Remez] Mr Peres, Shultz' envoy is still holding talks here in Israel, but we have already received hints that the secretary of state himself is about to begin energetic activity in the Middle East, perhaps even to come to try to advance the peace process as he perceives it. Following these talks, what do you expect to take place in the political sphere in the next few months?

[Peres] I think that whoever asks himself the following questions will reach the correct answer: First, can the United States afford to remain without a peace process, considering the current partial stoppage? My answer is an unequivocal no. Second, can the Middle East be abandoned to a rejectionist policy? My answer is no. Third, can Israel afford to remain without a peace policy, without a peace process? My answer is no. This holds for many other elements. Do we have only one channel for overcoming the problems? The answer is again in the negative. There are many possibilities and many ways. One can escape reality by hiding for some time, but this does not make reality go away. An opportunity for peace has been created; the Americans understand this, as do a great many Israelis.

We are not dealing with a soccer match; this is not the sports section on television or radio. These are the most serious and weighty issues. Toward the end of this year there will apparently be a meeting between Mr Gorbachev and Mr Reagan on issues relating to the defense of Europe, missiles, and nuclear warheads. The world is searching for a solution to the dangers engulfing it, which are growing from both the military and economic aspects. Nobody can escape them. I am therefore convinced that nothing has ended; there are difficulties along the way, but we must not regard them fatalistically.

[Grossman] However, beyond the creative listening Mr Hill referred to, has he brought a U.S. plan aimed at concrete and practical action?

[Peres] I do not want to enter into a public discussion on these issues. [passage omitted]

[Remez] Mr Peres, to return to our relations with the United States: At the same time that Mr Shultz' envoy is here, holding talks with you and Mr Shamir on economic issues as well as others, the State Department spokesman came out with the first public statement unequivocally calling on Israel to stop the Lavi project. Do you think this statement is timed to Hill's visit or the next government session, and what effect will it have on the government's decision?

[Peres] I do not think that it is connected with the visit, but I do believe it is connected to the government discussion. I assume that the State Department spokesman made this statement purposely on the eve of the government session. Perhaps it was also a reaction of surprise to the results of the vote [in the Knesset on the Lavi].

[Remez] Mr Peres, do you think that the government will have to take the U.S. statement into consideration?

[Peres] Certainly.

[Remez] You expressed support for the continuation of the project by means of funding the shortfall from other items in the national budget. Do you still think this might suffice?

[Peres] Let me say that, without this, a formal decision on continuing the Lavi would be worthless. We must give a serious response to the picture drawn by the defense minister and the IDF General Staff. We cannot say that their comments are not serious and not important. These people are responsible for preparing Israel to cope with serious crises. It is inconceivable for a government to ignore the opinion of the General Staff and the defense minister on such a serious issue.

What the defense minister and the chief of staff actually said is this: If you decide that the Lavi is a national project, then it should not come out of the defense budget. We are not opposed, but after the defense budget has been painfully cut, we cannot come to the Defense Ministry and the General Staff and tell them to invest 10 percent of their budget on the Lavi despite the cuts. Therefore, in my opinion, we must find the answer elsewhere; not at the expense of security, but at the expense of the sharp rise in the standard of living. You know, if I have to decide between constantly increasing car imports and the development of the Lavi, I think I would prefer the Lavi, even if this would be at the expense of the imports.

[Grossman] Mr Peres, thank you.

Comments on Hill Visit
TA111851 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Report by political correspondent Yig'al Goren — video recorded]

[Excerpts] [Goren] As part of a visit he described yesterday as creative listening, U.S. envoy Charles Hill today visited with the vice prime minister, accompanied by Wat Cluverius, special U.S. ambassador in the Middle East. The two men and their aides spent more than 2 hours discussing the situation in the Middle East and agreed that every effort should be made to continue to strengthen the peace process, particularly in light of growing Islamic fundamentalist trends, the arms race, and the precarious economic situation.

Envoy Hill explained that the United States has no intention of abandoning the peace process just because of the political stalemate in Israel, and added that his country is seeking ways to overcome this stalemate. As usual, today, too, the envoy divulged little about the content of his talks in Israel. [passage omitted on Hill's remarks in English about his meeting with Peres]

[Peres] It was my impression that the Americans, like me, are making serious efforts to find a way to save the peace process from attempts to freeze it. This is vital. Behind the so-called permanent status quo lurk horrible problems and dangers to the Middle East. Political sense, after all, lies in anticipating the storm rather than missing it.

[Goren] In that sense, is there anything new in the envoy's visit?

[Peres] The change is that more specific dialogue between us and the U.S. State Department has resumed, and that one of its aims is to find a way to overcome the problems that have arisen. [passage omitted]

AL-FAJR: U.S. Envoy Hill's Visit 'Doomed'

TA111426 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 8 Aug 87 p 1

[Editorial: "The International Conference and the Deadlock"]

[Text] It is not so important that U.S. envoy Richard Murphy acknowledged that the international conference will not succeed if the Palestinians do not participate in all its stages. And it is not important either that the U.S. State Department is trying to prove its political presence by sending an envoy to Israel to discuss what is referred to as advancing the international conference process. The important thing is where the United States stands vis-a-vis this "political bombshell" and what is the required political capital that must be provided by the United States and Israel for the convocation of this conference.

It is true that Murphy's statement is tantamount to acknowledging the importance of the Palestinian dimension in the convocation of the international conference, but, regrettably, acknowledgment represents no more than half of the reality. The other predominant half, the PLO, was completely ignored by Murphy.

Although it is true that the new U.S. move — through the visit of George Shultz' envoy to the region — is an attempt to break the current political stalemate, it is also a very late attempt that is doomed to failure. The United States is totally aware that talk on convening the international conference while Shamir heads the Israeli Government is an illusion and a mirage as long as he persists in his 3 no's: no to the international conference, no to withdrawal, and no to negotiation with the PLO.

By sending a new envoy to the region, the United States wants to "feel" the Israeli pulse to prepare for a bigger step; that is, to prepare for the visit of the U.S. secretary of state to the region should there be hope in changing Shamir's position toward the conference. All evidence indicates, however, that the U.S. efforts are heading toward a mirage.

The Israeli position is in constant retreat. What Shamir is proposing now is to substitute a regional conference under U.S. auspices for the international conference. Meaning that what Israel proposes is a new Camp David, and this is what the Palestinians and Arabs reject.

Consequently, the region is currently experiencing a totally paralyzed political climate due to the U.S. and Israeli positions toward the issue of the international conference, whose convocation has now become more difficult than ever.

Regardless of the political situation, the PLO is not now in a hurry for the convocation of this conference. This is because the PLO is sure that the conference will never be held without it. The PLO was and will remain the central link in any just and comprehensive solution of the region's crisis.

Hill May Be Last Reagan Envoy to Region

TA111523 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 9 Aug 87 p 1

[Editorial: "The Last of the Envoys"]

[Text] It is expected that Charles Hill, executive manager of Secretary of State George Shultz' office, will arrive in Israel late today. The United States has defined the aim of this visit, according to the usual news media reports, as searching for possibilities to advance the peace process.

The United States is aware that up to this very day Israel has failed to propose a specific position regarding what it deems appropriate for advancing the peace process. There are strong disagreements between the main leaders in the Israeli unity government. Yitzhaq Shamir, the prime minister, insists on rejecting all diplomatic forms related to the concept of convening an international peace conference. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres wants to use the international umbrella as an opening for the direct bilateral talks that Yitzhaq Shamir calls for.

The continuation of contradiction and inconsistency in the Israeli positions, and the lack of determination and clarity in the U.S. positions, are currently regarded as the main obstacles impeding the path of advancing the peace process. At a time when the Soviet Union, the West European countries, and most countries of the world have announced their consent to convening the conference, Israel and the United States continue to insist on keeping all the parties to the conflict at square one.

There is no doubt that the United States is able to bring about fundamental changes in the deadlock pervading the process of peace and diplomacy, should it present clear and specific proposals that take into consideration the positions of all the parties to the conflict. If this does not happen, then Charles Hill will be a mere addition to the list of U.S. envoys who have visited and will visit the region.

With regard to the U.S. Administration, it played with extreme caution during the last period. It contented itself with monitoring the development of Israeli differences, without interfering or adopting a clear position for the framework it deems appropriate for advancing the peace process. Thus, the U.S. Administration is waiting for a final Israeli position to be worked out so that it could adopt this position without entering into any direct or indirect confrontation with any Israeli side.

Charles Hill will meet with the leaders of the Labor Party and the Likud and will listen to their known and declared positions.

If he does not present U.S. proposals which have an impact on the positions of Israeli parties, the status quo will be maintained. Then Hill will perhaps be the last U.S. envoy to visit the region in the Reagan administration's era of seeking possibilities of advancing peace.

Shamir's Office Denies Shultz Sent Lavi Message

TA121314 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz transmitted personal messages to five Israeli Cabinet members, calling on them to stop the Lavi project forthwith and settle for a less costly alternative with U.S. help. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez has learned that the messages were given to the prime minister, the vice prime minister, the defense minister, the finance minister, and to the economics and planning minister.

The Prime Minister's Office has denied receipt of such a message, but our correspondent reports that such a message did arrive during the first meeting held between Mr Shamir and Charles Hill, Secretary Shultz' envoy, 2 days ago. The other ministers received their messages today.

Our correspondent has also learned that the tone of the messages is very friendly and that Secretary Shultz urges the decision out of his concern for Israel's security and his understanding of Israel's budgetary limitations. George Shultz also emphasized that since overall U.S. foreign aid has been slashed, there is no chance that Israel's share of the pie would be increased.

Pentagon Said Halting Action Until Lavi Decision

TA111857 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] The Department of Defense is suspending discussion of all defense matters connected with Israel until after Israel's official decision on the future of the Lavi aircraft is obtained. This was reported by a Pentagon official to our Washington correspondent Shim'on Schiffer. The source added that among those issues are further purchases in Israel using U.S. aid money and the overhaul of Israeli Navy vessels. The source said the U.S. view that the Lavi is not the best tool for Israel to maintain its air superiority remains unchanged.

Air Force Unveils Upgraded Phantom Jet Fighter

TA120507 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Aug 87 p 2

[Report by "*Post* defence reporter" Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Tel Nof Airbase — An upgraded Phantom, incorporating systems designed to propel it past the year 2000, made its maiden flight here yesterday afternoon.

Three years of research and development by the Air Force and some industries have given the plane more accurate navigation and weapons delivery systems, new wiring and systems designed to reduce the pilot's load.

New radar was also installed and changes were made in the plane's frame to strengthen weak spots and the wings. Some 28 kilometres of wire were replaced with materials that reduce the plane's weight by 100 kilos.

New computers and communication equipment are believed to be at the level of the F-16c, and other changes improve the plane's stability and maneuverability, according to Taf Aluf Avner Raz, who heads the Equipment Group at the Air Force headquarters.

Test flights of the Phantom will now begin. There will be a second prototype next March, and serial work is to begin next July. The Air Force has already forwarded some Phantoms to Israel Aircraft Industries, but the first squadron of improved Phantoms, called "Kkornas 2,000," is to be delivered only in the early 1990s.

Once serial work begins and initial hitches are worked out, it will take nine to 10 months to improve a Phantom, Raz predicted. The cost per plane, not including R & D, will amount to $5m.-$6m.

Phantoms have been flying with the Israel Air Force for some 15-16 years, and in the normal course of events should have been due for replacement soon. But the upgrading, offering a "not insignificant capability" in air-to-air battles and performances in air-to-ground operations, should extend the plane's life by some 15-20 years. For some tasks the Kfir and the Lavi offer no competition, he said.

A foreign expert familiar with the upgrading programme praised it. "It's going to be a good addition to the Israel Air Force," he told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Several foreign air forces have already shown an interest in the project. Some 2,000 Phantoms still fly around the world, and upgrading them could be a cheaper alternative to buying the next generation of aircraft.

Making the changes the IAF is implementing, and changing the engine from the original J-79 to the PW 1120 used by the Lavi, will cost some $10m. per plane, which is between one-third and one-quarter of the cost of a brand-new F-15 or F-18, said the Air Force's commander, Aluf Amos Lapidot.

Israel Aircraft Industries is trying to market a Phantom with the PW 1120 engine which it presented at the Paris Air Show in June. However, the IAF is not planning to change the engine as that would double the cost of the project.

HA'ARETZ Commentary on U.S. Dealings With Shamir

TA111417 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Aug 87 p 13

[Yo'el Marcus commentary: "Perhaps Shamir, Who Knows?"]

[Text] First of all, congratulations are due to the United States of America [preceding four words in English] It has discovered that Israel has a prime minister and his name is Yitzhaq Shamir.

It is also to be congratulated for the fact that it has understood that if Shultz wants to go on a shuttle trip in the area before his scheduled meeting with the Soviet foreign minister halfway through September — and, after all, it is for this purpose that his right-hand man, Charles Hill, has come to us — it is insufficient to close a deal with Peres and his boys. What is required for this is the agreement of the prime minister. That is to say, Yitzhaq Shamir.

And, to date, this Shamir has been completely shafted. Many of the dishes cooked up between Peres and Husayn and Washington were worked out behind his back. Shamir was receiving selective information — and on more than one occasion receiving it after the fact. The famous London agreement of 11 April between Peres and Husayn on the international conference was brought to Shamir's knowledge by Ambassador Thomas Pickering. He was thus confronted with a fait accompli. It was no coincidence that Shamir told his confidants then that, in view of what had happened, "I will never be sure that Peres will not work hand in hand with Husayn against me."

The Americans and Peres made a tactical error by not actively incorporating Shamir in all the moves (an error Dayan took care not to make; he did nothing without Begin's prior knowledge and without seeing to it that Begin, not Dayan, would stand under the spotlight). We can rely on the paper of Peres' movement, *Davar*, which in an article written by Dr Shay Feldman enumerated Peres' five errors: 1) He erred in not incorporating Shamir as a full partner in the process. 2) He erred by confronting Shamir with faits accomplis. 3) He erred when he thought the entire Cabinet had been persuaded about the conference and would impose it on Shamir. 4) He erred when he described the conference as absolutely without any risks, and thus made it easier for his rivals to represent him as actually inviting Soviet pressure. 5) He erred when he linked the matter of the conference with elections, was scared off them at the last minute, and exposed the weakness of his influence.

The biggest error that Peres and the Americans made, in a moment of distraction, was giving Shamir a political trump card he had not dreamed of — that of the international conference. By so doing they aroused a politician whose decisionmaking ability is not one of his most outstanding traits — who, ever since he has been in politics, has not led on any issue nor decided on any national problem — and turned him into an aggressive leader, marching at the head, who imposes his will. All of a sudden he is the leader of a camp of those opposed to concessions. All of a sudden his party and a considerable section of the nation is behind him. This is an electoral trump card which, had it not fallen into his hands, Shamir would have to have invented. With this he has sharpened the differences between the national camp and the "leftists" and "concessionists" and so on.

Charles Hill came on Shultz' behalf to see how to incorporate Shamir in furthering peace, on the understanding that the matter of the conference had become a symbol — that if he concedes it he will lose political prestige. But this would have to be done without conceding the conference idea, which is an absolutely essential condition for King Husayn and President Mubarak. On the face of it, this is an impossible mission. Shamir has rejected the text of the memorandum of understanding proposed some 3 months ago, according to which the United States would guarantee to walk out of the conference together with Israel were its conditions violated. His claim, which cannot be dismissed out of hand, was that Husayn would rapidly demand the West Bank, and Israel — with or without a memorandum — would then find itself under enormous international and maybe even U.S. pressure.

But the U.S. Administration, although it understands the problem of prestige Shamir is in, cannot abandon the conference idea due to the level of Shamir's prestige in Arab eyes. In this situation two possibilities are actually left: either Shultz will give up the idea of the visit to the area and the entire process will go into deep freeze; or Shultz will go part of the way with Shamir and transfer the matter of the international conference to a temporary basis — or, to be more precise, as the final clause on the agenda until he is able to check and finalize all the many other components. On his trip to the area within the next few weeks — if he comes — Shultz will finalize all principles of the mechanism of direct talks with Jordan; the identity of the Palestinians who are to participate in the talks; and the problem of what will and what will not be discussed in the talks. He will examine other "umbrellas" Shamir is proposing and check with the Soviet Union whether it is willing for its share in the conference to be ceremonial. If the Soviet Union does not agree to this, there will be no need to discuss a conference of the type being talked about. And if everything is tailored to suit the most meticulous people in Israel, it will be easier for Shamir to make a gesture on the matter of the conference without damaging his prestige.

It is now clear to the U.S. Administration that things will not work without Shamir. What can it lose if it tries to go part of the way, part of the time, with Shamir? Who knows? Might the Begin syndrome — that of the nationalist leader who stakes his all on peace — strike again?

Environmental Group To Visit Moscow 'This Month'

TA021405 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] This month a delegation from Israel is to visit Moscow. An environmental education delegation will attend a congress on this topic. The congress will also be attended by representatives from Arab countries.

'Takeover' of Arab Electric Company Criticized

TA111752 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic
10 Aug 87 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "The Arab Electricity Company Facing Final Liquidation"]

[Text] Once again there is a renewed attempt to impose gradual Israeli control over the Arab Jerusalem Electricity Company by means of reducing the concession, imposing a tariff on the money-losing company, banning the import of power generators, and other restrictive measures. This attempt has once more become the focus of discussion and interest because it relates to

one of the most prominent and sensitive issues for Palestinian residents. The reason is that the company, which employs the largest labor force, is regarded as a national institution that enjoys a place of pride and honor in the hearts of all Palestinian citizens.

Yesterday, the Israeli Government crowned a series of restrictive measures it has ceaselessly practiced against the company and other national institutions by adopting a decision stipulating the reduction of the company's concession. It also cut off the Jewish settlements and districts established in the company's jurisdiction, linking them directly to the national grid. This development entails many perils that threaten the livelihood of over 500 workers in the company, and confronts them with difficult choices: either capitulation to the calamity of unemployment, or emigration. This condition serves the aims that leaders of the ruling establishment in Israel have always tried to achieve.

Anyone who follows the series of Israeli measures against national institutions would realize that the Israeli decision falls within the sphere of these restrictive measures. This highlights the need for national unity aimed at canceling this decision, which constitutes a gradual nibbling away at the Arab company in preparation for a complete takeover.

What increases the gravity of this Israeli measure against the Arab electric company is that it coincides with Israeli attempts to establish control over Arab water resources, which in turn comprise part of the economic wealth of Palestinian residents. In addition, this measure coincides with statements by some Israeli officials calling for the expulsion of Palestinian citizens from their lands to the east.

The Israeli minister of energy [Moshe Shahal] tried to justify his government's decision by saying that it saves the company from its debts. However, these would not have piled up in such a manner had it not been for the Israeli measures which Shahal himself admitted have been carried out since 1979. This is no more than an attempt to deflect the masses' condemnation of the new Israeli measure as the first step toward total control over the company. Imposing a tariff that incurs losses on the company and forbidding it from using new generators will maintain the crisis in the company. This will provide pretexts for taking over what remains of the company's concession in areas where the company is providing services to Palestinian residents.

Jordanian Involvement in Territories Viewed

TA101428 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Aug 87 p 7

[Dani Rubinstein article: "The Salaries Are Paid by Amman"]

[Text] More than a year has passed since the Jordanian Government came out with its dramatic announcement on grandiose development plans for the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and Jordanian activity in these areas has been conducted slowly and relatively quietly. As will be recalled, the declaration came following the split between the PLO and Jordan (the 'Arafat-Husayn accord was frozen), and the Jordanians engaged in a massive information campaign. Jordanian radio and television carried almost daily interviews with or reports on statements by West Bank and Gaza personalities who had visited Amman and expressed support for the Jordanian development plans.

One could hardly claim that the Jordanians have managed to effect far-reaching changes in the territories since the spring of 1986, but, nevertheless, something has been happening. One need only glance at the East Jerusalem *Al-Nahar* issues of last week to notice this. *Al-Nahar* started out as a weekly published through Jordanian support, while the paper with the largest circulation in the territories, *Al-Quds*, shifted its political line, turning into a pro-PLO organ. Several months ago *Al-Nahar* became a daily, and last week a special edition was issued on the occasion of the Muslim "high holiday" ('Id al-Adha). That edition, as well as several other issues of the newspaper, carried congratulations to King Husayn accompanied by countless pictures of the monarch.

I cannot recall a time when the inhabitants of the territories so freely expressed enthusiasm for the Jordanian regime as in last week's *Al-Nahar* issues. This was orchestrated by the newspaper's two editors — 'Uthman Halaq, an East Jerusalem engineer and businessman, and 'Isam al-'Anani. Both have recently engaged in intense political activity in the territories against the backdrop of the waning influence of former Jerusalem governor Anwar al-Khatib, who was always considered Jordan's primary supporter in the territories.

Other prominent people with close links to Amman include the strongmen of the Islamic Waqf in Jerusalem — Hashim al-Sha'ir and Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj. The latter went to Amman last week for a meeting with the king, from where he will proceed to Bucharest for a meeting with the Romanian president. As Frayj met with Shim'on Peres just before he left, one does not have to stretch one's imagination to guess what his specific role in the current political moves in the region may be. Hashim al-Sha'ir helped to strengthen the religious (Islamic) establishment in the territories and has long served as a Jordanian strongman in the West Bank. Shaykh Akramah al-Sabre — the imam of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, who was a member of the PLO delegation at the PNC conference in Algiers last year — has been retired and eased out of any influential position. Other Waqf officials whose loyalty to Amman was questioned have suffered similar punishments. One of them, for example, has been dismissed from his post in Jerusalem only to become a schoolteacher in some God-forsaken place in the Tulkarm region.

The Jordanians have also been nurturing the mayors of Jericho (Jamil Khalaf), of Hebron (Dr Al-Zir), and of Ramallah and Al-Birah, who were appointed in coordination with the Israeli authorities. They transfer to these mayors budgetary allocations that had been frozen and assist them in implementing municipal development projects.

The most significant change in Jordan's attitude toward the West Bank and Gaza is manifest in its initiative to pay the salaries of the more than 120,000 teachers in the territories, who had thus far had to make do with the smaller salary paid them by the Civilian Administration. Only a select few — those who had held teaching positions even before 1967 — had also been given a partial salary from Jordan. But gradually, since the beginning of

this year, Jordan has been paying a salary of between 200 and 300 shekels a month to all the teachers in the West Bank, and what is more, also to the thousands of teachers in the Gaza Strip. Previously, the Jordanians evinced a rather lukewarm interest in Gaza, mostly through the joint Jordan-PLO committee and via the office run by Rashad al-Shawwa that dealt with issuing laissez-passers and passports. Today, however, they hold themselves responsible for Gaza to the same extent that they are accountable for Nabulus and Hebron. A symoblic manifestation of this is the weather forecast on Jordan television, which has recently begun to include not only the entire area of Jordan and the West Bank, but also Gaza.

The money for the teachers in Gaza and the West Bank is transferred through the Cairo-Amman Bank, a Jordanian bank with one branch operating in Nabulus and two planned branches in Ramallah and Hebron.

Border Guards' Role To Expand; IDF Role To Lessen

TA111530 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Aug 87 p 1

[Report by Tali Zelinger]

[Text] The IDF is working to expand the Border Guards and reduce the scale of IDF soldiers on patrol missions in the territories.

As early as August, military inductees will be assigned to reinforce the Border Guards. This trend will continue through all the call-ups. Within 1 year, the Border Guards will be increased to a scale that will enable the expansion of their activities. This willallow the reduction of the number of soldiers who are employed in activities in the territories, instead of in training or engaging in operational activity.

Yesterday, a senior military source explained that despite what is occurring in the territories, the trend is not toward increasing the scale of the IDF presence there — other than in emergency cases and for the most restricted periods of time. This is in order not to damage the regular activity of the IDF and its units.

AL-SHA'B Reports PLO Offices Reopened in Cairo

TA101222 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Aug 87 p 1

[Exclusive *Al-Sha'b* report]

[Text] Cairo — It has been learned from informed sources that the PLO offices in Cairo have resumed their work following Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's return from the Addis Ababa summit. These sources added that the PLO offices were reopened without any announcement.

It is worth noting that during the African summit Mubarak discussed the latest developments in the region and ways to restore relations between the PLO and Egypt to their natural course.

It is noteworthy that Egypt closed the PLO offices in Cairo following the conclusion of the PNC meetings in Algiers last April, under the pretext that the final statement of the meetings had attacked the policy of the Egyptian leadership.

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives, Makes Statement

JN121204 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Amman this morning on a short visit to Jordan. During his visit he will convey a message to His Majesty King Husayn from his brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

The Saudi minister of foreign affairs stated that the message comes within the framework of the continuous consultations between the leaderships of the two sister countries, due to the difficult circumstances the Arab nation is now passing through. He said his talks in Amman will also consider the agenda of the Arab foreign ministers' meeting, which will be held in Tunis next Saturday [15 August]. The minister additionally expressed hope that this meeting would bring about a unified Arab position on current Arab developments, both in terms of the Gulf war and the recent Security Council resolution on it, and in terms of Iran's continuous and permanent threats against the State of Kuwait and the painful Mecca incidents in which the Iranians wished to initiate sedition. God be praised that this sedition was smothered within hours.

The Saudi minister pointed out that the Arab nation should seriously and determinedly tackle and discuss these issues.

Concerning Iran's detention of Saudi diplomats, Al-Faysal stated: All the diplomats held hostage in Tehran have been released, with the exception of one Saudi diplomat. We demand his release because his health is very poor.

Al-Faysal was received at Amman airport by Minister of Foreign Affairs Tahir al-Masri, the Saudi ambassador to Amman, and a number of senior officials.

Notes Fate of Missing Diplomat

NC121149 Paris AFP in English 1142 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Amman, Aug 12 (AFP) — The Saudi diplomat who is being detained in Tehran in the wake of the Mecca disturbances is in serious condition, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faysal said here Wednesday.

Authoritative Jordanian sources quoted the Saudi official as saying on his arrival to Amman that Musa'id al-Ghamadi had been injured when the Saudi Embassy in Tehran was sacked on August 1.

The Saudi and Kuwaiti Embassies in Tehran were sacked one day after the Mecca, Saudi Arabi, disturbances involving Iranian pilgrims and Saudi security forces in which 402 people were killed, according to Saudi official count.

On Tuesday, the *Saudi Gazette* reported from Jeddah that 35 Saudi nationals were confined to two Tehran apartments while the fate of Mr. al-Ghamadi, the Saudi Embassy's political adviser, was unknown.

The *Saudi Gazette* said Mr. al-Ghamadi was badly injured when he jumped from a window during the Iranian attack on the Saudi Embassy.

Members of the Saudi legation detained in Tehran said they had not been allowed to see Mr. al-Ghamadi but had been assured by the Iranians that they would be able to visit him.

Prince Saud was to hand King Husayn a message from his Saudi counterpart King Fahd, authoritative sources here said.

The sources added that the Saudi official would also hold talks with Jordanian leaders on bilateral relations and discuss the agenda of the forthcoming Arab League foreign ministers meeting.

Egyptian Minister of State 'Ubayd Arrives 12 Aug

JN121013 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, Egyptian minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, arrived in Amman today on a short visit to Jordan. During his visit he will convey a message on current regional developments from Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to His Majesty King Husayn.

He was received at the airport by Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah and the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Amman.

Received by King Husayn

JN121144 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of state for cabinet affairs and administrative development of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The minister then presented his majesty with a letter from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i also attended the meeting.

AL-ITTIHAD on Crash of U.S. F-16 in Maneuvers

JN101828 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1735 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi 10 Aug (WAM) — Military sources in Washington have disclosed that a U.S. F-16 aircraft crashed during the joint U.S.-Jordanian military maneuvers held during the blessed 'Id al-Adha holiday lasting several days.

The newspaper *Al-Ittihad* cited these sources as claiming that the pilot survived since he was picked up by Jordanian assault troops in the high mountains where the exercises were carried out. The sources disclosed to the newspaper that King Husayn of Jordan personally participated in a portion of these exercises, particularly in firing maneuvers, in tank-gun firing, and in infantry operations.

Also participating in these maneuvers, which were shrouded in secrecy, were armored forces and more than 7,000 assault troops as well as U.S. F-16 aircraft and approximately 2,300 U.S. soldiers.

AL-DUSTUR Urges Caution on U.S. Visit to Israel

JN101109 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Aug 87 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "U.S. Effort Between Outside Appearances and Facts"]

[Text] The current visit by the U.S. secretary of state's executive assistant to Israel outwardly appears to be a peace effort aimed at convincing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to agree to an international Middle East peace conference under certain U.S. guarantees.

While welcoming any effort by the United States or any other state for the sake of peace or for holding an international conference, our long experience with the current U.S. Administration requires us to be cautious over illusions that the secretary of state's envoy seeks to spread in this region, which yearns for security, stability and peace.

This is because President Reagan's administration, which has already wasted many opportunities to achieve progress in restoring peace in the Middle East and adopted a stand that is very similar to that of the Likud and all Zionist radicals, is sending an envoy who does not have any experience in the affairs and concerns of the region. This envoy is being sent to delude the Arabs that the United States is seeking to eliminate all obstacles in the way of convening an international conference.

Thus, we view the current U.S. effort in Tel Aviv as more of an attempt to reconcile the two wings of the Israeli Government than an attempt to get Israeli radicals to stop opposing the policy — a policy of occupation, expansion, and imposing a fait accompli — openly called for by Shamir and his supporters.

While we believe that convening an international conference cannot be achieved by appeasing Israel and its impossible attitude toward the participants of this conference, we hope that the United States will join the unanimous international stand calling for its convocation. We hope that it will implement practical policies to persuade Israel to abandon its continuous rejection of such a formula, which now seems the only practical and possible option for achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Foreign Minister Al-Masri on Mideast Conference

JN111118 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Aug 87 p 24

[By Rabab Mankul]

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has denied that the idea of an international conference to settle the Middle East crisis has reached a dead end. He also denied that there are practical alternatives to the international conference. He described these alternatives as "theoretical alternatives" in the political arena.

In an exclusive statement to *Al-Ra'y*, he said that the international conference is the only way to achieve a peaceful settlement in light of political and international considerations inside and outside the region.

Al-Masri commented on the rejection of the international conference by the Israeli Government and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, as well as the U.S. political stand toward the conference. He stressed that the more the conference is delayed the more complicated matters will become. He also stated that the Israeli rejection of this conference is the main obstacle. Al-Masri noted that if this rejection is removed, it would be possible to hold the international conference before the end of this year. He pointed out that the concept of an international conference has gained support both internationally and inside Israel. He described the visit to Israel by Charles Hill, envoy of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, as a step forward to convince Shamir of the concept of holding an international conference.

The foreign minister expressed concern over a delay in holding the international conference. He declared: If we made positive steps toward holding the international conference, there would be other negative steps and incidents in the region prior to the conference's convocation. This would eventually lead to a negative outcome.

Al-Masri commented on the political coordination between the PLO and Jordan, which reached a dead end following abrogation of the Amman agreement. He also touched on the nature of current Jordanian-Palestinian relations. Concerning these two topics, the foreign minister remarked: There is no political coordination between Jordan and the PLO. Coordination remains as it is. He described relations between the PLO and Jordan as "neutral," and commented that political contacts between the PLO and Jordan "exist" but are not "intensified".

Al-Masri commented on some PLO members' statement that the PLO would negotiate a separate peace with Israel. He said: The PLO itself has denied these statements, and PLO officials' statements and actions do not reflect the PLO's desire to follow this course. A solution to the Palestine question must lie within an Arab framework in which the PLO participates, and not through a separate solution.

The foreign minister spoke on the PLO's stand toward forming a Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation to participate in the international conference. Al-Masri remarked: The PLO does not reject the principle of a joint delegation. However, I believe that the PLO's stand toward this issue is somewhat ambiguous.

The foreign minister pointed to the PLO Executive Committee's statement after the abrogation of the Amman agreement. He said that in this statement, the PLO announced its commitment to the principles of the agreement. He also noted that the PNC resolutions did not say anything about an independent delegation but stressed participation in the conference on equal footing with the other parties. He said that from the Jordanian viewpoint, the Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation is the "best solution" for what he described as "practical" considerations.

The foreign minister reviewed the issue of reconciling Syria and Iraq, and Jordan's role in this. He described Jordan's role as one of reconciliation, one that transcends the role of a mediator. The minister noted that in this reconciliatory role, Jordan is prompted by its own interest in a reconciliation between the two sides. He said both nations respect Jordan's proposals.

Commenting on whether or not there is progress in the Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation process, Al-Masri stated: Jordan's role is making progress and is being appreciated. He, however, also noted that this progress is not equal to the efforts being exerted.

On the nature of Jordan's role between the two countries, he said: Jordanian contacts are intended to bring views closer together and to define and overcome differences. Both sides are resorting to the method of quiet diplomacy and secrecy. Therefore, going into detail will contradict this policy.

In this context, the minister noted that the Jordanian role will be more important in the future. He added that future developments might push the two countries toward a broader reconciliation, given the serious situation of the region. The minister listed these developments as the progress of the Iraq-Iran war, the presence of major powers in the Gulf, and the stalemate in a political solution. He also stated that the economic depression affecting the Arab countries and some of these nations' internal difficulties are factors, noting that such developments will place the Arab nation at a major crossroads.

Al-Masri explained Jordan's stand toward the presence of naval forces in the Arab Gulf to protect oil tankers against Iranian attacks. He said: In principle, Jordan does not welcome the presence of any naval force or foreign power in Arab waters, but Iran's actions justify such a presence.

The foreign minister described Kuwait's request for using U.S. flags on its vessels as protection against Iranian strikes as a "clever move ensuring its lifeline's continous operation."

Al-Masri then defined Jordan's position toward the Soviet proposals to end the presence of naval forces in the Gulf. He pointed out: Jordan supports the withdrawal of naval forces from the Gulf if Iran stops threatening oil tankers.

The minister ruled out the possibility of other parties being involved in the Mecca incidents that resulted in thousands of casualties. He declared: The Mecca incidents were purely an Iranian operation masterminded by Tehran. All indications and Saudi reports affirm that no other parties on Saudi territory had anything to do with these events.

Al-Masri discussed Tunisia's call for an Arab foreign ministers' meeting to review the Mecca incidents. He said that Jordan was the first Arab country to respond to Tunisia's call and to hold contacts with the Arab states to coordinate stands. He also noted that 15 August has been fixed as a date for this meeting in Kuwait. Al-Masri hoped that the meeting will result in "a unified Arab stand on the level of the serious threats confronting the Arab Gulf and the Arab world in general."

Views on Dealing With Government Situation Noted

Hilu, Al-Jumayyil Meet

NC111302 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and former President Charles Hilu reviewed the current political and economic conditions in the country today. Following this meeting, former President Hilu reported that the discussions had been encouraging, despite the hardships, difficulties, and dangers that lie ahead. He said that there is a readiness to deal with the various issues and affirmed that there is a desire to form a new government, without which there can be no way out of the crisis.

Franjiyah on Alternatives

NC111353 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] During a news conference today, former President Sulayman Franjiyah said that there are two ways to deal with the situation which has arisen as a result of the demise of former President Camille Sham'un and Prime Minister Rashid Karami: either accept the current government's resignation and appoint a new one, or appoint two new ministers. He asserted that a newly formed government could establish its authority over all territory if it so desired. He also noted that it could assume its role in uncovering the assassins of Prime Minister Karami.

Lebanese Forces Urge Changes

NC111831 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Following a meeting today, the Lebanese Forces declared that the continuation of the current government situation will lead to further economic deterioration and the policy of impoverishing and starving the Lebanese people. The Lebanese Forces stressed that the only way to solve the socioeconomic crisis lies in forming a new government whose members possess a free will that allows for independent decisionmaking. The government's program must be based upon two basic points: first, to evict all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon; and second, to solve the socioeconomic crisis.

The Lebanese Forces stressed that should a new government be formed according to this plan, they would assist the state organs in controlling all ports and utilities and in collecting taxes and fees due the state Treasury.

Referring to the gasoline crisis, the Lebanese Forces asserted that the crisis had arisen because of the lack of official control over gas stations, which must be exercised by the Ministry of Economy. With regard to the sharp decline in the rate of the Lebanese currency, the Lebanese Forces blamed the absence of the executive authority which, it asserted, is due to the government's boycott of the regime and the loss of its representative status with the death of three of its pillars, particularly two Christian members.

Liberal Party To Discuss Al-Huss Plan, Government

NC111400 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Lawyer Emile Najm, secretary general of the National Liberal Party, has disclosed that the party's Higher Council will discuss the [economic] plan that acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has propounded. He affirmed that such an important plan should be discussed by a new, responsible, and capable government.

Al-Jumayyil Seeks Participation in Mideast Meeting

NC120724 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0515 GMT 12 Aug 87

['Aziz Ra'd dispatch from Washington — recorded]

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has stressed the need for Lebanon's participation in a proposed international conference on the Middle East problem. In an interview with the magazine *Lebanese Affairs*, a new English-language periodical published in Washington, the Lebanese president said that no one can negotiate on behalf of Lebanon. If peace is to have real meaning and such a conference is to succeed, then Lebanon must participate along with Jordan and Syria.

When asked if Syria wants to annex Lebanon, he replied: I do not accept this. The Syrians have assured all Lebanese that they want to withdraw from our country. Their words must be considered. President al-Jumayyil noted that the Syrian Government knows that Syria's long-term interests are not served by keeping forces in Lebanon.

He also criticized Israel's policy toward Lebanon, saying that Israel has weakened the Lebanese Government, and that its policy toward Lebanon over the last 20 years has been characterized by failure. He indicated that Lebanon is the only country which constitutes a threat today to the security of Israel's borders. The Golan Heights, the Jordan River, and the Sinai are all secure borders with Israel because of the presence of strong governments there, whereas Israel's actions have weakened the Lebanese Government, Al-Jumayyil asserted.

President al-Jumayyil explained in his interview with *Lebanese Affairs* that the silent majority of Lebanese support legitimate state institutions and condemn violations of the law by armed groups supported by foreign states. He added that all Lebanese factions and sects are responsible for the country.

Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts has arranged for this interview with President al-Jumayyil to be published in the minutes of Senate sessions. The senator expressed his appreciation for the Lebanese president's optimism and his continuing commitment to defending his people and the democratic system in Lebanon.

U.S. 'Directly Responsible' for Gulf Tension

JN081419 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 8 Aug 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The tense situation in the Gulf causes legitimate concern among the region's peoples as well as all those who care for peace and security in the world. Despite a unanimous Security Council resolution calling for a halt to the Iraq-Iran war, Gulf tension has noticeably and dangerously risen. It threatens the region with intentional or unintentional explosions. This tension also endangers the peace and security of regions that may not be close to the war zone.

The United States, out of its concern for peace and easing dangerous tension in the region, was one of the states that voted in favor of the UN Security Council resolution on the Gulf war. Notwithstanding this, the U.S. Administration is directly responsible for escalating tension and expanding the danger of armed conflict in the region. The United States is thus threatening freedom of navigation in the Gulf instead of ensuring this freedom for all sides in international waters.

U.S. shows of military force are not in harmony with U.S. claims that it cares for peace, security, and free navigation. These shows of force frighten no one, and, moreover, they will not realize any of the declared U.S. aims. The first escort operation by U.S. vessels in the Gulf demonstrated the inanity of these shows of force. There is no guarantee that these ships will be protected against possible dangers that U.S. military commands and policymakers do not anticipate. These people deal with expected, calculated, and normal events. Any human error or miscalculation will lead to an extremely dangerous situation. Given the current international efforts to guide developments toward reconciliation instead of confrontation, this will serve no one's interest. Any action by any side to expand the conflict's scope to include areas not involved in the fighting will be contrary to the interests of the region's peoples. This will also defeat efforts for peace and security both in this region and the world.

When fire starts to spread, there is no predicting when it will stop. At this point there will then be no big or small sides. Even superpowers such as the United States will find themselves involved in a conflict that will hurt them. This will occur regardless of their superpower status. No matter how many warships they possess and no matter how aggressively their politicians and soldiers might speak, such a conflict would damage the United States. Sometimes, conflicts are governed by certain circumstances. In such conflicts, the side with more weapons and forces will not be the victor. The task of calming the Gulf situation and preventing this conflict's expansion is an urgent one. The United States can contribute toward this end by abandoning the spirit of adventurism, threats, and the flexing of muscles, which do not scare anyone. Everyone's interests lie in preventing the conflict's flames from spreading to new sides in the Gulf. Whoever tries to spread the conflict's flames will find himself confronted by regional and international forces, forces that are trying to extinguish the flames of war and tension. They are resisting any attempt to add fuel to the fire.

'Repercussions' Seen From 'Bright Star' Maneuvers

JN091512 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1145 GMT 9 Aug 87

[Unattributed report from the "On the Events" program]

[Text] The United States is expected to resume the "Bright Star" maneuvers with the Egyptian regime the day after tomorrow [11 August] following the conclusion of these maneuvers with the Somali regime. The following report concerns this subject: Thousands of U.S. troops from the Rapid Deployment Force will participate in the new maneuvers on Egypt's Mediterranean and Red Sea coasts, as well as the western desert. The aim of these maneuvers is to train the U.S. forces and the supporting forces of the Egyptian regime for a possible invasion of a regional oil state.

This clearly means that Washington is using the Egyptian and Somali regimes as a bridge for making threats. Washington is also using these regimes to prepare for aggressive operations against those regional states that are confronting conspiracies intended to impose U.S.-Zionist hegemony on the Middle East. The Egyptian regime claims that its military maneuvers with the United States have no political objectives. However, these claims are refuted by the true situation in the region and by U.S. threats and the Reagan administration's insistence on aggravating the situation in the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea, and the Arab Gulf. The United States does so on the pretext of safeguarding freedom of shipping and the oil market. Washington has expanded its military moves to include almost all the waters surrounding the Arab world. The U.S. Administration's pretext now is the oil issue. Its military moves last year were listed under the slogan of combating terrorism.

However, following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the U.S. military presence has assumed the role of direct intervention in the region's conflict. At that time, Washington did not conceal the fact that this Israeli invasion would open the region's doors to the Camp David policy. The U.S. fleet and forces departed from Lebanon and its coast following the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. The main Camp David schemes for Lebanon were also foiled during this period. Despite this, Washington has learned nothing from its lesson in Lebanon. Washington is continuing to use this or that pretext to intensify its military presence and to make threats. It does so under the illusion that the threat of force or actual use of it could achieve its objectives of tightening its control over the region.

The nature and objectives of the U.S. "Bright Star" military maneuvers can be viewed within this context. Washington does not only intend to flex its muscles but also aims to hint at the possibility of carrying out a new regional aggression, which might result in serious repercussions for world security and peace. This is confirmed by the fact that the United States' European allies continue to refuse to be dragged into the U.S. military adventure in the Gulf. Moreover, the Reagan administration refuses to respond to all initiatives calling for the withdrawal of fleets from the Gulf and the Mediterranean. The administration's refusal is based on the pretext that this would result in the collapse of its strategic interests. The Reagan administration deems the use of force as the only means of protecting these interests. It does so

regardless of the resulting dangers that may threaten the region and this area's nations' interests. The region's states have affirmed that the issue of security is their responsibility and not that of the United States, which treats the Middle East as though it was one of its farms.

AL-BA'TH Criticizes U.S. 'Adventure' in Gulf

JN110921 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 Aug 87

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The U.S. Adventure in the Arab Gulf," *Al-Ba'th* states: All indications are that the massive U.S. military presence in the Arab Gulf region is intended to create new situations in the region by the force of terrorism. The United States has political and economic objectives in our region that it intends to realize through the gate of the Arab Gulf. Everyone knows about these objectives. Everyone realizes the serious consequences and repercussions of these objectives on Middle East history in general and on the Arab future in particular.

U.S. ambitions in the oil region are well-known. The United States also perseveres in its efforts to place the Arab oil lake under its direct control. Regardless of these ambitions and efforts, the U.S. Administration does not hide its intention to create a new political situation to pave the way for direct U.S. control of the region's financial and economic nerve center. It intends to do so under the pretext of safeguarding Gulf security and ensuring free navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

Al-Ba'th adds: President Reagan's administration has considered the Gulf war a rare opportunity to realize its political and economic objective under the pretext of protecting oil tankers. This administration dispatched its naval forces to the Gulf's waters and brought its fire to the powder keg. It is completely ignoring the serious consequences of such aggressive, reckless behavior.

This serious escalation by the United States surprised even its allies. The United States is perfectly aware that the flames of the Gulf war cannot be extinguished by such an aggressive spurt. The United States knows that the people of the region possess the prerogative to solve the existing problems and difficulties of their region. The United States is also aware that its warships and heavy guns cannot solve these problems and troubles. Furthermore, the United States knows that the world will never allow it to have a free hand in and around the Gulf region. It additionally knows that the world will never allow it to apply the U.S. law of force in defiance of the international community and the region's peoples. *Al-Ba'th* asserts that this serious provocation against the entire region must be taken seriously. This is because Washington and those on the U.S. bandwagon are trying to bring the entire region and perhaps the entire world to the brink of fire. They want to burn everyone and end their dreams of peace and security.

Al-Ba'th notes that the peace-loving forces, led by the USSR, have drawn attention to this serious U.S. escalation. They have exposed its aims and unmasked it. It is the duty of everybody, both inside and outside the region, to use all means to end this serious U.S. adventure before it becomes a disaster for the region and the world by burning everyone with its flames.

AFP Cites Diplomats on Fighting Near Kabul

BK111210 Hong Kong AFP in English
1158 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 11 (AFP) — More than a thousand refugees have fled to Kabul after heavy shelling and a Soviet-Afghan offensive against rebels to the north of the Afghan capital, Western diplomatic sources here said Tuesday.

Refugees from the Shomali region who arrived in Kabul Saturday and Sunday said that many people had been killed and homes destroyed in bombing and shelling by Soviet and Afghan Government troops in the past week, the diplomats said.

The refugees said that some Soviet soldiers were killed in clashes with guerrillas north of Kabul August 4, they added. There were further clashes in the same area the next day, and fighting was also reported August 3 near Istalef, 40 kilometres north of Kabul.

Government artillery batteries near Kabul's northern perimeter road began firing towards the north, their near-vertical barrels indicating the proximity of the targets on August 4, the diplomats quoted refugees as saying.

The bombardment was particularly heavy August 7, the Western diplomats said, and the same day ground troops combed the area. The refugees began flooding into Kabul the next day.

Planes also bombed the Paghman region west of Kabul after a helicopter was shot down in the area August 1 and rebels attacked a government post August 2 and 3, the diplomats said.

There was a big explosion, "probably a bomb," outside the Interior Ministry in Kabul on Saturday, the diplomats said. No other details were reported.

Diplomats here estimate that rebels throughout Afghanistan shot down 42 aeroplanes and helicopters in July, based on totalling reports from various sources.

They expressed concern that Moscow and Kabul could make good propaganda from the visit by United Nations' human rights representative Felix Ermacora, who left Afghanistan Saturday. He thanked the authorities for their "full co-operation" and referred to his visit as "the start of a dialogue".

UN Representative Comments

AU110852 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG
in German 11 Aug 87 p 1

[Text] Frankfurt (AP, APA) — On his return from his 11-day visit to Afghanistan Dr Felix Ermacora, UN special representative on Afghanistan and Austrian Nationalrat deputy in Frankfurt, confirmed that the Kabul government had complied with his wishes regarding the program.

He had the impression that less torture is going on in the country's prisons and he noticed some effects of the Afghan Government's policy of reconciliation. Freedom of religion has been restored, the expert on international law said on his return from Kabul.

"My wishes regarding the program have been fulfilled. I was able to speak with everybody," Professor Ermacora stated. He was also allowed to visit the ill-famed Pol-e Charkhi Central Prison. "In Afghan prisons torture seems to be have been applied with greater reservation in the last few months," Ermacora reported.

At the same time though, there is little indication that the situation in the war zones has improved. He toured 29 provinces of the country. He saw no war zones but the noise of battle was heard frequently. There is still an appalling number of injured persons.

The refugee question is still the dominant problem, Ermacora stated. Around 3.5 million Afghans have fled to Pakistan alone.

The UN special representative is currently preparing his sixth report on the human rights situation in Afghanistan. He was allowed to visit the country for the first time after the Kabul government had repeatedly barred him from entering.

Rabbani on Return of Ex-King, Relations With USSR

AU100753 Vienna Domestic Service in German
0500 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Report on an interview with Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the Jamiyat-e Eslami, by Raimund Loew; date and place not given — recorded; Rabbani remarks in boldface in Pashto fading into German translation]

[Text] Burhanuddin Rabbani is the leader of the Jamiyat-e Eslami, the Islamic Afghan Association, one of the largest parties among the seven Islamic Afghan resistance organizations, based in the Pakistani border city of Peshawar. His organization is considered fundamentalist, but there are also local guerrilla leaders, such as the legendary Masud from the Panjshir Valley, among the mujahidin, Rabbani's resistance fighters.

Rabbani does not yet believe in a true change in Moscow's policy in Afghanistan. For the mujahidin there is a lack of actual deeds and they do not intend to accept anything less than a total Soviet withdrawal as the basis for a political solution.

Of course, the unconditional and immediate withdrawal of the Red Army from Afghanistan is the first step toward our right to self-determination. This means a practical step showing that the Russians want to make peace with us.

Kabul's government party no longer speaks of bandits when referring to the resistance fighters and party leader Najib has recently repeatedly offered opposition politicians participation in government. He even speaks of the possibility of forming a multiparty system. For Rabbani, however, negotiations with the pro-Soviet regime in Kabul are unacceptable.

An understanding with the Kabul regime is out of the question, because this regime is a product of violence and aggression. We

will always negotiate with the Russians. That is, we are willing to negotiate with the Russians.

In order to pave the way for a political solution, both Gorbachev and Najib have suggested discussing the possibility of the return of former Afghan king, Zahir Shah, who lives in exile in Rome. The three moderate parties of the seven-party alliance are also not totally against this idea. It is, however, different in the powerful fundamentalist wing, which is also represented by Rabbani.

The return of King Zahir Shah is not a solution for us. Our problems have to be considered on a long-term basis. He is responsible for today's situation in Afghanistan and if he is responsible for it because of his wrong policy, he cannot be a solution. Those who consider the return of Zahir Shah are a minority. All in all, Zahir Shah will not have a chance there.

Rabbani does not understand why the Moscow leadership fears that an Islamicized Afghanistan could become a danger for the Soviet Union or even open up to the United States.

Our past shows that we will not be a danger to the Russians in the future. We had very good, very friendly relations with the Soviets. They should not forget this, please. It is simply fiction that a small country like Afghanistan can become a danger to superpower with nuclear arsenals. This is simply fiction and we do not accept this fiction. After Afghanistan's independence, that is, after the Red Army's withdrawal from Afghanistan, we will not permit the Americans or any other power to establish military bases in Afghanistan. If we want to live in peace with the Russians, this does not mean that others can establish their military bases there. It is out of the question. This has not been the case in the past and will remain so in the future. This is our final position.

Rabbani does not, however, want to commit himself to Afghanistan's formal neutrality after the withdrawal of the Soviet troops. The Islamic party leader does not expect the war to end in the immediate future. Hopes for peace, fostered by Moscow, are considered propaganda by Rabbani.

It is to be expected that soon the puppets in Kabul and the Russians, too, will start a lot of propaganda in order to isolate us in some way or other by saying that we do not want peace. In addition to emphasizing peace, they will increase their attacks. We are prepared for this. We want peace, but we will not let anyone oppress us.

Gandhi Comments on Investigation of V.P. Singh
BK120505 Hong Kong AFP in English
0447 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 12 (AFP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has ordered an inquiry into charges of "corruption, nepotism and misuse of power" against his leading critic and former Defence and Finance Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, a ruling party MP said.

Mr. Gandhi has asked the Home Ministry to investigate the charges made by 51 members of his Congress (I) Party who have also accused Mr. Pratap Singh of plotting to bring down the government, Mr Kalpnath Rai told a news conference here late Tuesday.

Mr. Rai, who met the prime minister Monday to submit a list of charges against Mr. Pratap Singh, said Mr. Gandhi had promised "proper and necessary" action against the former minister if the charges were proved.

Mr. Pratap Singh, who was expelled from the Congress (I) Party last month after trying to highlight corruption in the government, was charged with "brazenly" using his office to enrich his family.

The 56-year-old former minister, who has emerged as the leader of dissident Congress (I) members, was charged with using his clout to get his son a job in a foreign bank when he held the finance portfolio up until January 1987.

"Through his son Mr. V.P. Singh has also accumulated wealth and is said to have foreign accounts in London and in the United States," the list of charges said.

As chief minister of Uttar Pradesh for two years until 1982, the man who enjoys a reputation for honesty was accused of spearheading a reckless drive against bandits which left 5,000 innocent people dead.

Mr. Pratap Singh, who resigned as Uttar Pradesh chief minister after admitting he had failed to control the bandits, was widely seen to be the mascot of Mr. Gandhi's "clean" administration.

He brought a rare zeal to his job as finance minister, raiding several top business houses for concealed income, but was shifted to defence in January after he hired a U.S. detective agency to investigate foreign bank holdings of rich Indians, illegal under Indian currency laws.

He was forced to resign in April after ordering a controversial inquiry into kickbacks allegedly paid to Indian agents on a 330 million dollar submarine deal with a West German firm.

Some party colleagues said the inquiry was designed to embarrass the government.

Mr. Rai, who has emerged as the spokesman for Mr. Gandhi's loyalist MP's, said Monday: "I charge Mr. V.P. Singh with having conspired and still conspiring to oust Mr. Rajiv Gandhi from power at the behest of forces inside and outside the country."

He called on Mr. Pratap Singh to resign from Parliament, to which he had been elected "at the courtesy of the Congress (I)."

There was no immediate reaction to the charges from Mr. Pratap Singh, who has been labelled a CIA agent by Mr. Rai.

Since his expulsion from the party, the former minister has called for Mr. Gandhi to step down and fight mid-term polls on the issue of corruption charges related to defence procurement contracts.

Ruling MP's Demand 'Inquiry'
BK120528 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Fifty-one Congress-I members of Parliament have demanded a judicial inquiry into the alleged charges of corruption and misuse of power by the former union minister, Mr V.P. Singh. In a memorandum submitted to the prime minister, they said that Mr V.P. Singh had been and is still plotting to oust Mr Rajiv Gandhi at the behest of forces of destabilization within and outside the country.

Veteran Congress-I Leader Comments
BK091528 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
23 Jul 87 pp 1,7

[Excerpt] New Delhi, July 22 -- The octogenarian Congress (I) leader, Mr Kamlapati Tripathi, is understood to have taken exception to the way in which the party leadership expelled the former defence minister, Mr V.P. Singh, and later sought to get the approval of the Working Committee.

When the Congress (I) Working Committee (CWC-I) met on Wednesday to endorse the decision on the expulsion of Mr V.P. Singh, Mr Arun Nehru, Mr V.C. Shukla and Mr Arif Mohammed Khan, the octogenarian leader gave a piece of his mind to the leadership by making it clear that he was totally against the action.

He said he was at a loss to understand what wrong Mr Singh had done. He regretted that the leadership did not bother to consult him or other leaders on such important issues. He said he would have advised against the expulsions.

However, Mr Tripathi said he was agreeing to endorse the decision at this stage as a disciplined congressman.

The meeting, which lasted about two hours, unanimously felt that Mr Gandhi's action was necessary in the interest of the party.

During the discussions, some members criticised the union minister of state for public enterprises, Mr K.K. Tewari, for his unwarranted criticism of the president, Mr Zail Singh, on Tuesday.

The tardy implementation of the government's economic programme and the new twist given to its policies also came in for criticism from CWC (I) members.

The provocation for the criticism of the economic policies was the campaign being launched by the expelled congressmen about non-implementation of party policies. Some members complained that the party manifesto was not properly implemented.

Members said efforts should also be made to implement the programmes for the upliftment of the poor for which the party should chalk out a left-of-the-centre policy.

In an obvious response to the allegation on Tuesday by Mr V.P. Singh that the rulers were not bothered about the prevailing drought situation in the country, the CWC (I) asked the government to take immediate steps to tackle the situation. [passage omitted]

Merits of Nuclear Treaty With Pakistan Questioned

BK120952 Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 Aug 87 p 4

[Editorial: "India-Pakistan 'Regional' NPT?"]

[Text] U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Michael Armacost was obviously not just delivering a harmless homily when he suggested an Indo-Pakistan nuclear non-proliferation treaty [NPT] even while making disapproving noises about Islamabad not helping uphold "our policy and our laws" in this regard. There should be little doubt that the former proposition was the substantive portion of the statement and the latter merely a ritual incantation. The whole sordid story of American bounties being showered on its favourite military regime in contravention of the Symington Amendment is as well known as Washington's unremitting efforts to make India fall in line with its unabashed nuclear hegemonism and U.S. overlordism in South and South-West Asia.

The suggestion is the more notable for its patent absurdity. Just what prompted it? How on earth did the US official presume to come out with it so soon after his visit to India, whose views on the subject must have been made unambiguously clear? This country's staunchly principled opposition to the idea of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty as blatantly discriminatory needs hardly to be dwelt upon at length. Its campaign for nuclear non-proliferation, instead, by nuclear-weapons states has not been conducted in secrecy. It has also repeatedly declared its own preference for development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and refused to deviate from this path despite grave provocations, though it cannot afford to foreclose its options. Nothing has happened to warrant any change in the Indian stand. What do Mr Armacost and his mentors hope to gain by advancing the rather ludicrous proposal? Especially, considering that a Pakistan-India non-proliferation treaty does not become any less unacceptable on the grounds on which India has rejected the global version. The proposition has, of course, from the Reaganite viewpoint, the merit of embodying the neoimperialist objective of restricting India to a regional, South Asian status and thus curtailing its broader role. It also serves the purpose of the same quarters by equating India with Pakistan that has achieved nuclear weapons capability with the none-too-covert aid and abetment of the crusaders for nuclear non- proliferation. Neither of these features, however, could have been expected to endear the idea to India to any degree.

The conclusion would appear inescapable that the suggestion has been made because its authors hope for a change in the Indian response. Is it Mr Armacost's presumption, and that of the regime he represents, that there is greater readiness in New Delhi now to consider a compromise on this issue involving vital national interests? The call for a "regional" NPT would seem, in other words, to be a blatant attempt at blackmail. Its indignant rejection is the only conceivable response for an independent nonaligned nation.

Direct Intervention in Fiji Situation Ruled Out

BK110910 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] The government has made it clear that it cannot directly intervene on behalf of the people of Indian origin in Fiji. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, told the Rajya Sabha today that their safety and welfare is the responsibility of the Fijian authorities. In a written reply, he said the government has, however, taken diplomatic initiatives to mobilize international opinion to ensure that no ethnic group is discriminated against in Fiji's multiracial society.

FRG To Assist in Metallic Nodule Technology

BK121039 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] India and West Germany are to cooperate in marine research and deep sea mining. Memorandum of understanding to this effect has been signed in New Delhi. Under agreement, West Germany will supply the know-how to exploit and extract metallic nodules from the sea. West German Minister for Research and Technology Dr Heinz Riesenhuber told newsmen in New Delhi that his country will provide India with advanced technology to mine metallic nodules which contain manganese, nickle, and cobalt. India will also get expertise on extraction of these metals from nodules.

'Unprecedented' Drought Affects Power in Punjab

BK120459 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] In Punjab, the State Electricity Board has imposed 50 percent power cut on all types of industries with immediate effect to ensure that adequate power is supplied to farmers in view of the unprecedented drought condition. According to the chairman of the board, more than half of 440 lakh units of power is being utilized for agricultural sector alone.

Tanker Hit by U.S.-Planted Mine in Gulf of Oman

LD111741 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the spokesman for the War Information Headquarters has commented on the U.S. efforts to create tension in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, as well as the oil tanker carrying Iranian crude which hit a mine in the Gulf of Oman. He said: This incident shows that the United States is moving toward an expansion of tension in the Gulf of Oman.

He added: Evidence shows that the said tanker hit a mine which was planted by the United States or its agents. The War Information Headquarters spokesman assessed the U.S. effort as an attempt to create insecurity in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. He said that the United States is trying to prepare the ground for increased interference in the region. He affirmed: To plant mines in the waters of the Gulf of Oman — a danger directed at all the countries of the region — is in line with U.S. objectives. These same objectives created the bloody crime in Mecca, thus destroying all ties among the countries of the Persian Gulf.

The spokesman added: The fact that the U.S. defense secretary's anti-Iranian statements coincided with the Iraqi attack on several of our industrial units, along with Western propaganda attempts to divert world public opinion away from the real instigators of tension in the Persian Gulf, all testify to U.S. willingness to create tension in the region.

The spokesman for the War Information Headquarters also said: In line with the trend of efforts to confront American-inspired tension, the Iranian Navy is ready to carry out the necessary measures to sweep mines forcefully and capably in the Gulf of Oman.

Majlis Speaker Says U.S. 'Possibly' Laid Mine

LD111753 Tehran IRNA in English 1746 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 11, IRNA — Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today said that a mine which caused damage to a Panamanian ship near Al-Fuyayrah, off the UAE coast in the Gulf of Oman yesterday had possibly been laid by the U.S. itself.

U.S. agents or those who invited Washington to interfere in the Persian Gulf are the most likely suspects to have laid the mine, the speaker said noting that Washington's rivals might be involved in the issue.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani made the remarks during his five-hour tour of the missile-arms manufacturing complex affiliated to the Ministry of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) here.

The imam's representative to the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) said the mine could not have been laid by accident in a place where both American ships and those carrying Iranian oil are sailing through. "However," the speaker stressed, "we have ordered the Navy to investigate the matter."

Elsewhere in his speech, the speaker cited the July 31 massacre of pilgrims in Mecca by the Saudi police as the latest plot hatched by the West against the Islamic revolution. He noted "no conscious human can tolerate the bitter Mecca killings."

Hundreds of pilgrims were mowed down with machine gun fire near Allah's houses only because they chanted anti-U.S. and anti-Israel slogans, and still the global arrogance have not raised an outcry over the massacre, the imam's SDC representative said.

"The reason for such incidents is that they (the global arrogance) does not approve of our message...if we want to rely on them we cannot continue to exist," remarked Hashemi-Rasfanjani.

Majlis speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani also underlined the need for committed Iranian experts to continue their efforts to make the country self-sufficient in military industries.

The speaker also toured various sections of the complex including the production lines of 107 and 122 mm missiles as well as remote-controlled missiles known as Ra'd (thunder).

Interviewed on Gulf Mines

LD112112 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker and Supreme Defense Council spokesman, made a 5-hour inspection tour today of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps mini-katyusha rocket-manufacturing plant. Also present were Mohsen Rezai'e, commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; Brigadier Sohrabi, chief of the Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces; Mohsen Rafiqdust, minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; and Ayatollahi, minister of mines and metals.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressed the plant's staff about their creative, inventive, and ceaseless efforts in manufacturing various types of weapons. He said: The Islamic revolution is now in a position whereby the United States, Britain, and France feel helpless in the face of our selfless, martyr-seeking people in their boats. They have admitted that they are unable to match the Iranians.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: We should be thankful today that the United States with its fleet of warships is forced to pick its way carefully through the Persian Gulf. All this proves the strength of the revolution and the fear the powers have of the Islamic revolution. The Islamic Revolution Guards minister later gave a report on the way the mini-katyusha rocket-manufacturing plant operates. He said: This complex was built by committed and devoted personnel in less than 6 months and became operational in record time.

Following his inspection tour, the imam's representative and spokesman on the Supreme Defense Council was interviewed by our correspondent about his view of the rocket-manufacturing complex.

[Begin recording] [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It was interesting to us. We observed the production lines of the various types of rockets we are currently using at the fronts. We make nearly all the parts ourselves from the raw material that is delivered: the rocket casings and the finished product ready to be shipped to the fronts. It was very interesting. Of course, I had heard about this and read the reports. I wanted to see it for myself. I came here thinking that it would not take more than 2 hours, but wherever we went, it was so interesting that we had to stop and talk to those who work so hard here. Keeping in mind the workers' enthusiasm, activity, and inventiveness, one can expect a very good future for the Islamic Republic's self-sufficiency, as well as for friendly countries.

[Correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in the light of the Corps' role in the war, could you tell us about the brothers' successes in setting up a scientific and technological infrastructure for manufacturing rockets and weapons?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We are halfway there, as I understand it. We have a group of committed, faithful, educated, and inventive human beings, managers, and logistical support workers, in terms of operational matters at the fronts, training, and technical execution. What the people see most are the results of operations. However, in terms of support, from the command level all the way down the line, one can accurately state that a model unit has been presented to the world. As far as we know, this situation has not been seen in other revolutions or societies. This is very interesting and hopeful.

[Correspondent] My last question concerns the (?reports) relating to the strike at...[changes thought] An Iranian ship hitting a mine. Is it true, and if so, which country or sources were involved?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It was not an Iranian ship. Apparently, it was a Panamanian ship owned by U.S. firms, as reported. It carried our oil. As the tanker was sailing out of the Strait of Hormuz into the Indian Ocean yesterday, it hit a mine near the port of Al-Fujayrah near Khawr Fakkan. The matter is of some interest to us, as this is the place through which all ships heading for the Persian Gulf must pass, including our own vessels heading for our ports. It is still too early to say who placed the mine. One probability is that the United States laid it in order to declare the area unsafe, thus concocting another reason for its presence. Another probability is that U.S. agents, who invited the United States there in order to declare the area unsafe, laid the mines. It is no accident that the mine was laid in such a way as to involve a U.S. ship and yet also be connected with Iranian oil.

There is a strong probability that Iraq was the culprit because more than any other country, Iraq is currently interested in portraying the area as unsafe, thus creating a crisis. The rivals of the United States could also have done it, that is, those who oppose the United States could have planted the mine to show there is a great deal of danger there. It is too early to say. We have ordered the Navy to immediately check out the area and to collect any other mines that might be there. If they find any more, they should be checked. Perhaps we can obtain more information. Most probably, this issue is related to the United States or to its agents. [end recording]

Khamene'i Receives Envoy After Oman Visit

LD111748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Mr 'Ali Shams-Ardekani, adviser to the minister of foreign affairs and special envoy of President Khamene'i, was sent to Oman to deliver a written message from Mr Khamene'i to Sultan Qabus about the recent crimes of Al Sa'ud in holy Mecca. He has now returned from Oman, and this morning he was received by the president.

Presenting a report about the positive results of his discussions with Oman's king and foreign minister, he informed the president of the sympathy expressed by Sultan Qabus, the Omani king. He said:

The sultan of Oman has described the recent incident in holy Mecca as a great Islamic calamity. He asserted that hajj ceremonies should never be regarded as a place for a show of force, let alone for the shedding of blood. Referring to the fact that the sultan of Oman in his discussions with our envoy had emphasized the expansion of comprehensive relations between the Islamic Republic and Oman Mr Shams-Ardekani said: Sultan Qabus stressed that such actions by those wanting to increase tension in the region is not reasonable or wise. He said that a powerful Islamic Iran is a source of pride to the region, not a source of fear.

Mr Shams-Ardekani also noted that the Omani minister had stated that Iran is an important country and that no issue in the region could be solved without Iran's participation. Therefore, isolating or creating difficulties for Iran will never guarantee the well-being of any country in the region.

Minesweepers Offered To Clear Waters Near UAE

LD121116 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] In the wake of provocative acts by the United States in the Persian Gulf and its efforts to show that it is insecure [as heard], our Foreign Ministry spokesman today informed the Central News Unit that available evidence suggests that the U.S. ruling clique had planted mines in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman. They did this either directly or through hired agents in the region, in one instance on Monday, causing damage to an oil tanker near Al-Fujayrah.

He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran has sent messages to the authorities of the Emirates, including the ruler of Al-Fujayrah. In Tehran, he added, the charges d'affaires of the Emirates has been formally asked to allow Iranian minesweepers and minesweeping helicopters to operate in the waters of the Emirates and the Shaykhdom of Al-Fujayrah.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman stated: In view of U.S. threats regarding the planting of mines in some parts of the Persian Gulf, as well as the plots of the colonialist powers to foment trouble in the region, it is necessary for the countries of the region — whichseek the security of the Persian Gulf without the interference of outsiders — to cooperate with each other in order to neutralize the conspiracy of the United States and its agents. In

this regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran has declared its serious and decisive readiness to cooperate with the United Arab Emirates to clear the region's waters.

Tehran Notes UK Decision To Send Minesweepers

LD112330 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Our colleague in London reports on the dispatch of British minesweepers to the Persian Gulf as follows:

[Begin recording] George Younger, the British minister of war [title as heard], announced tonight that his country will send four Hunt minesweepers to the Persian Gulf region. The British war minister said that the reason for this action is the increased danger caused by mines in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. Britain also asserted that its intention in sending these minesweepers, which will not reach the region for 5 weeks, is to guard British ships.

Britain has at its disposal 11 Hunt minesweepers, 4 of which will be sent to the Persian Gulf. The British decision was announced at a time when neutral circles in the West believe that the mine which hit a Panamanian-flagged tanker yesterday in the Gulf of Oman off the coast of Al-Fujayrah was planted by the United States and its allies. News regarding the discovery of four other mines in this region has been described as yet another means to prepare public opinion for sending additional military units to the Persian Gulf.

Oil circles in London say that before the *Texaco Carribean* tanker hit a mine yesterday, a French military ship and a U.S. warship passed through that region. This afternoon, a merchant vessel reported the existence of a fourth mine close to Al-Fujayrah.

British television stations interrupted their normal programs today to televise the news concerning the dispatch of British Hunt minesweepers to the Persian Gulf. [end recording]

UN Envoy on UK Minesweepers

LD121047 Tehran IRNA in English 1037 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] London, Aug. 12, IRNA — Iran's ambassador to the U.N. Seyyed Rajai'e Khorassani said at an interview with B.B.C. TV Tuesday that Iran did not consider despatch of British mine sweepers to the Persian Gulf as conducive to peace. Rajai'e Khorassani who was talking in an interview in New York said that Britain's excuses for such a decision were not plausible.

Following the hitting of a mine by a Panamanian oil tanker in the Gulf of Oman and discovery of four mines in the Persian Gulf waters earlier this week, Britain announced it would desptach four mines sweepers and a supply ship to the Persian Gulf.

Rajai'e Khorassani also stressed that the mines discovered in the Gulf of Oman had not been planted by the Islamic Republic but by the U.S. or other countries. He added that Iran's readiness to sweep mines from this region proved that Iran had not planted them.

Meanwhile British defence minister has stressed that British mine sweepers would set sail for Persian Gulf in the next five weeks to protect British war ships and cargo vessels. He did not rule out the possibility for cooperation with U.S. fleet at the Persian Gulf.

Musavi Condemns U.S. Naval Presence in Gulf

LD121157 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the Cabinet met this morning. The conferees first discussed the most important domestic and international issues, as well as a report about the victorious "Nasr-7" operations carried out in the Qal'at Dizah region. A report was then submitted to the Cabinet by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] with regard to the start of production of 107-mm and Malyutka missiles.

According to our correspondent, the Cabinet approved the allocation of 1 billion rials to repair the damage caused by recent floods and the allocation of 150 million rials to reconstruct the building of the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences at the University of Esfahan.

At the end of this session, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi gave an interview to our correspondent, to which I now draw your attention.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Musavi, the Zionist Iraqi regime has resumed attacks on urban industrial sites. In view of the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to delivering a crushing response to these attacks, please let us know (?what the nature of the Iranian response to these crimes will be).

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Since the start of the war, we have never been the ones to initiate aggression. However, we have always responded decisively to any such aggression. At the moment, the answer to your question is that if the aggression continues we will decisively and crushingly respond. Of course, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always announced publicly that in order to understand the proper nature of the Saddam regime the world should pay attention to the methods used by that regime in the course of the war, as well as to the operations carried out by that regime in the Persian Gulf, against cities, installations, and economic installations, and its use of chemical warfare, one of the worst examples of which can be seen in Sardasht.

[Correspondent] We recently received a report saying that Britain and France have announced that they will send minesweepers to the Persian Gulf to assist the Americans. This decision will create tension in the Persian Gulf in the future. If this assistance leads to greater tension in the Persian Gulf, what will the reaction of the Islamic Republic of Iran be?

[Musavi] We have always believed and stated that there was no tension in the Persian Gulf; that the United States brought

tension to the Persian Gulf. Various aggressions committed by the United States in different parts of the world have been backed by France and England. At the moment, we again see the same scenario. Their excuse is that they wish to keep the routes open for the export of oil. The question is: Has the export of oil been made easier or more difficult since the United States came to the Persian Gulf? We believe that with the intensification of tension these routes have been made more insecure. This insecurity has been brought to the region by the United States itself. Security will return to the Persian Gulf only when the United States leaves the Persian Gulf and ends its aggressive presence.

We have repeatedly announced that no problem exists in the region except for the attacks by Saddam's regime on ships and oil installations. If this is stopped, there will be no further incidents in the Persian Gulf. We have repeatedly announced that the security of the region should be safeguarded by the countries of the region. Any foreign presence, or the presence of foreign forces, will intensify tension in the region. We believe that the continued U.S. presence serves no useful purpose for the West, for the United States in particular, except to deliver repeated and continuous blows at the already tense situation in the Gulf and at U.S. prestige and credibility.

It is appropriate to further reveal the aggressive nature of the United States in the world. Article 5 of the very resolution it approved in the Security Council — the recent resolution — has been violated by the United States and now by its collaborators, France and England. They have shown that all these resolutions and all these moves are merely tools to implement their policies. I am amazed at international organizations, Security Council members, and all those who have some authority in this matter. They pay no attention and do not protest against it, but are very insistent about the implementation of the resolution. However, they do not turn to the country which has invested so much effort in this resolution for its own purposes and do not ask why that country, which pushed for the passage of that resolution, violated it the moment it came into being. Of course, we have repeatedly announced that this resolution cannot bring about peace in the region, because our just conditions have not been considered in it. [end recording]

Velayati Sends Letter to Perez de Cuellar

NC110745 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Summary From Poor Reception] "Our foreign minister Mr Velayati has sent a message to the UN secretary general in which he discusses the Security Council's indifference to the Iraqi regimes's chemical bombing of Sardasht, a city with a population of 12,000, and to U.S. support for the Iraqi regime in this matter." He calls on the secretary general to clarify the matter.

"In one part of the message, he states: Your excellency was immediately and officially informed about the chemical bombing of Sardasht, and a request was made for a team of experts to inspect the situation" and prepare a report. "However, for reasons unknown to us now — 42 days after the chemical bombing of Sardasht by Iraq — you have not sent a team of experts but have contented yourself with an unofficial report prepared by the inspection team based in Tehran. Although this report was not published by the Secretariat and was not documented by the Security Council," it could have provided the United Nations with sufficient information. Meanwhile, it appears that the failure to respond had nothing to do with the question of technical inspection. The reason for the UN secretary general's position is unclear.

"Another part of the message states that 7 years of imposed war have proved that the United Nations, and especially the Security Council," are incapable of confronting the crimes perpetrated by the Iraqi regime. The statement adds: The bombing of Sardasht "should be recorded in history alongside Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but the Security Council and the UN secretary general himself refused to react in any way. This is the height of irresponsibility on the part of the Security Council and a manifestation of profound" differences of views among some of its members. "It is ridiculous that the United States — which once condemned Iraq's chemical attacks — now, in its support for Iraq, even prevents this issue from being raised in the Security Council." Unfortunately, other permanent members of the Security Council — France and especially Britain, for example — which formerly had explicit and clear stands on this have now taken different positions.

"Your excellency, silence on the Sardasht tragedy is tantamount to silence on the most horrific crime involving the use of chemical weapons in contemporary history. It amounts to Iraq's devaluation of the contents of the important 1925 Geneva Convention. The reasons for the Security Council's incompetence and indifference" in relation to the violation of international norms should be clarified. In view of the fact that Security Council Resolution No 598 has condemned the use of chemical weapons, "I would like to have your clear and official answers to the following important questions." What was Iraq's reply to your official letter dated 29 June 1986 to the leaders of Iran and Iraq calling for a commitment not to use chemical weapons, and why was your request not followed up? "If Iraq has left this request unanswered, what steps have been taken to persuade it to observe the 1925 Geneva Convention?" Does not the fact that the Security Council — "twice indirectly and twice more on 21 March 1986 and on 14 May 1987 — explicitly named Iraq as a violator of the 1925 Geneva protocol" make it incumbent on that country to fulfill certain responsibilities as a UN member and a signatory to the 1925 Geneva protocol? "Does Iraq have the right to ignore its commitments regarding the 1925 Geneva protocol and the UN positions on the pretext of continuing the war? Regarding the report prepared by the representatives of the Tehran-based UN inspection team after its inspection of Sardasht and the victims of chemical warfare in that city, does it not confirm the fact that a chemical attack took place and that the 1925 protocol was violated? What are the reasons for the lack of reaction by the United Nations and why has the report by the inspection team on the bombing of residential areas — which was formerly published officially — been prepared unofficially for some time now yet its publication prevented? Why did the Secretariat not publish the report on the chemical bombing of Sardasht?" Is opposition by one country alone sufficient to render ineffective the activities of an inspection team? Is this the situation affecting reports drawn up by all UN inspection teams? "Also, if the report by the inspection team cannot be documented

because it is unofficial, why was the dispatch of the inspection team to prepare an official report prevented, despite Iran's request? Why were the Spanish and (?Chinese) doctors prevented from inspecting the wounded in Spanish hospitals?"

Was the Security Council's 14 May 1987 statement on the secretary general's call for effective collective political steps ever answered? If so, then why was another crime perpetrated in Sardasht? If not, then why did my letter dated 23 May and the warnings in it go unanswered?

"Because of U.S. support for Iraq, the Security Council has now adopted the unlawful advice that the only way to prevent the renewed use of chemical weapons by Iraq is to end the war. On this basis, the official view of the United Nations appears to be that the use of chemical weapons is permissible and acceptable until the end of the war."

If this is not the case, then what proposals does the secretary general make for effective collective political efforts to follow up the issue?

Answers to these questions could play a determining role in the evaluation of the part that the United Nations and the Security Council can play in relation to the war and its various dimensions.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran will also carefully consider these answers in its final military decisions on ways to confront the continued use of chemical weapons by Iraq."

Commentary on Chemical Warfare

LD111403 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1120 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Our foreign minister sent a message to the United Nations secretary general yesterday about Iraqi chemical attacks on Sardasht.

In the tragic attack on Sardasht, which took place 43 days ago, hundreds of people in that city, including women and children, were martyred or injured as a result of the chemical attacks by Iraqi aircraft. [passage omitted]

Under conditions wherein the one-sided resolutions of the Security Council have always supported Iraq, when the Security Council has always supported Iraq, when the Security Council holds a session only at the proposal of a few countries and makes a decision regarding a few issues — also in favor of Iraq — and under conditions when the Security Council does not pay the slightest heed to the protests and complaints of the Islamic Republic of Iran about Iraq's violations of the most basic international regulations, the Islamic Republic of Iran regards itself justified to retaliate in kind against Iraqi chemical attacks on the basis of the Geneva Protocol of 1925.

If some day it loses hope in taking practical measures to prevent Iraq from resorting to such crimes, Iran will review its current policies adopted on the basis of humanitarian considerations.

FRG Television Interviews Kharazi on Gulf Events

DW112116 Mainz ZDF Television Network in German 1945 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Interview with Kamal Kharazi, member of the Supreme Defense Council, by moderator Ruprecht Eser on the "Heute-Journal" program in Bonn on 11 August -- recorded; Kharazi speaks in Persian and Eser speaks in English with superimposed German translation throughout]

[Text][Eser] Kamal Kharazi is a member of the Supreme Defense Council responsible for information and propaganda. Good evening, Mr Kharazi. The UN Security Council is meeting right now. How would your government react if the Security Council decides on a weapons embargo against Iran and Iraq?

[Kharazi] The UN Security Council is under pressure to pass a resolution against us. No doubt, not all the members of the Security Council will agree on such a resolution against us. Besides, the arms market is such that we should not be concerned about weapons. We have been able to satisfy our needs for weapons in the last 8 years. I think that in the future we will be able to fill our needs for weapons through our own production or from the free market. Arms manufacturers make big profits in their business. Their profits come from selling weapons.

[Eser] In its last resolution, the UN Security Council appealed to both sides to immediately halt all hostilities and to withdraw their respective troops. Why did Iran not accept the resolution?

[Kharazi] We could not approve of some parts of that resolution. We have other parts of the resolution under consideration. It is important to see what the resolution's priorities are. It seems as though, under U.S. pressure, priority is given to maintaining the Iraqi regime. We think that priority should only be given to peace.

[Eser] Let me discuss a new topic that has been in the headlines these days. Did Iran, maybe the Pazdaran [as heard], lay the mines in the Gulf? This is the assumption of the U.S. defense minister. Or have they been laid by invisible hands, as your Prime Minister Musavi maintains?

[Kharazi] One cannot say who is responsible for the problem of the mines in the Persian Gulf. At present, there are many mines in the Persian Gulf, mines set by Iraq, by us, and by others. For example, the mine that hit the Texaco tanker -- we think the Americans laid it, because the tanker was carrying our oil and other mines were found in that area, as you have heard on the news. There were even mines near two Soviet warships. This increases our suspicion that it was the Americans who set those mines.

[Eser] You just said that it was possibly the Americans who set the mine which hit the *Texaco Caribbean*. Is that connected with the fact that it was a Panamanian ship which carried Iranian crude oil, and that it would have been rather strange if it had hit an Iranian mine?

[Kharazi] This is enough proof for me: the tanker was transporting our oil. Therefore, that mine may have come from

the Americans and been targeted against us.

[Eser] Mr Kharazi, your government's position has always been that Iran would attack Kuwait, an ally of Iraq, in the event Iraq attacked your Iranian oil facilities. That happened yesterday. Will you still launch a counterattack against Kuwait?

[Kharazi] Our position concerned the industrial and oil facilities in the Persian Gulf. If Iraq does not attack our ships in the Persian Gulf, then we will stop attacking the ships. If Iraq resumes attacking ships, then we will attack Kuwait's oil facilities in the Persian Gulf. What was attacked yesterday was not in the Persian Gulf, but was on its surface. We responded by attacking Iraq's facilities in Omolraz and in Zober [as heard].

[Eser] This interview was conducted 2 hours ago.

Tehran Comments on U.S. Embargo Attempts
LD091315 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1108 GMT 9 Aug 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The U.S. assistant secretary of state has said that his government has been engaged in negotiations with the permanent members of the UN Security Council to assess ways of imposing an economic and military embargo on Iran.

Richard Murphy said that the embargo would apply to the warring party which refuses to accept the recent UN Security Council resolution. However, he admitted that to achieve a coherent conclusion on this aspect of the resolution would require more efforts. Meanwhile, political sources assert that Murphy's reference to more efforts means that certain permanent members of the Security Council, like China or the USSR, might easily refuse to accept a U.S. proposal concerning the imposition of an embargo against Iran.

On the other hand, an informed political source has stated that Murphy's remarks about new attempts within the UN framework are indicative of a new chapter in the U.S. Administration's intervention in the imposed war. Although a new chapter — the imposition of an economic and arms embargo against Iran — may not meet with collective approval, nevertheless the Western powers are now attempting to pave the way for its implementation. The fact is the U.S., British, and French Governments sent more troops to the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman some time ago. It is possible that the number of their warships will total 36. This is the largest military mobilization by the Western world since the Korean war.

According to experts at a strategic center in London, this military mobilization could be the first step in forming an international fleet under the supervision of the United Nations. The experts believe that its function would be to put pressure on Iran to reach a compromise on the war. Furthermore, this force could possibly implement an embargo before a compromise is reached.

Despite all these events, it is clear that the Western world could not easily implement such measures, particularly after the holding of the "Martyrdom" maneuvers in the Persian Gulf, because the martyrdom-seeking actions by the Iranian forces against the West's military presence would create tension in the region. This would involve the Western governments as well as Japan. To assess this within the context of relations between the two superpowers would introduce dangerous possibilities.

Certain political experts believe that the recent action by the United States — the covert dispatch of the second Kuwaiti oil tanker convoy to that country's waters — shows that the United States intends to act very cautiously and avoid making Iranians more angry, especially following the Mecca massacre.

Having said that, considering the United States' diplomatic attempts at the Security Council and their military activities in the Persian Gulf waters, some observers believe that Washington is pursuing the carrot and stick policy. It is trying to place the Islamic Republic of Iran at a crossroads. According to Washington, whichever road is taken would be to the detriment of Tehran. This means that if Iran intends to continue the war, then it must confront fleets of warships from the West – a situation unprecedented since the Korean war. On the other hand, if it decides to choose a political solution, then it must submit to the recent Security Council resolution.

According to one diplomatic source, this move is the result of planning by the Western world over the past several months, led by the United States. Therefore, in line with the covert negotiations which started 8 months ago involving the permanent members of the Security Council to reach a coordinated stance, an Iranian Embassy attache was arrested in Britain and accused of the concocted offence of shoplifting. Then, having created the desired climate, they reduced relations between London and Tehran to a minimum. After a while, the French Government resorted to a similar act, resulting in a complete break in diplomatic relations between Paris and Tehran.

In the meantime, the approval of the UN Security Council resolution, the military presence in the Persian Gulf and, eventually, the massacre of the pilgrims in Mecca can be seen as the links of the same chain, the purpose of which is twofold: first, to present Iran to world public opinon as a warmongering government, opposing any peace with the Iraqi regime; and second, to present Iran as a terrorist and supporter of terrorism.

In fact, these two objectives also have another significance. First, the Western world, led by the United States, calls on Iran to end the war, just when the Al-Faw peninsula, the western part of Al-Basrah, and Iraqi Kordestan are being removed from the control of the Saddam regime. Second, it is calling on Iran to abandon the export of the revolution and its support for the oppressed nations of the Third World.

Even the Western governments do not believe these objectives will be fulfilled. Besides, there exist certain differences between the views held by officials and people in the Islamic Republic of Iran and those held by the West.

The imposed war and the Islamic revolution are viewed in Iran as a divine duty for which one must give one's life. As for the West's propaganda onslaughts – considering that Iran has based

her policy on relations with nations, rather than governments -- such propaganda will not have much influence on Muslim public opinion, particularly in the Third World. Furthermore, reliance on God and the expectation of divine assistance are meaningless to the enemies of Iran and of Islam.

Since the beginning of the victory of the Islamic revolution, the Western world has tried extensively to bring it to its knees. These attempts and plots appeared to be flawless, as far as they were concerned. However, in practice, they always failed. Now the military presence in the Persian Gulf and moves in the Security Council are yet another conspiracy which, when it fails, will cause the Western world to wait for years in order to regroup its forces.

Further Reportage, Comment on Violence in Mecca

Saudi, French, U.S. Complicity

LD112230 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] The Lebanese publication *Al-Haqiqah* has revealed that 1 day prior to the implementation of the U.S. conspiracy to shoot pilgrims to the holy house of God through police from the house of Al Sa'ud in holy Mecca, a special committee, presided over by Fahd, the Saudi Arabian king, was held in which the minister of the interior [not further identified] and a number of American and French experts participated. The participants surveyed ways and means to implement this crime.

According to the Central News Unit, the Lebanese publication *Al-Haqiqah* printed this report last Monday and cited an informed Saudi source. It stated: Some Saudi Arabian police, accompanied by security forces wearing civilian dress, embarked on an armed attack against the pilgrims of the house of God.

Egyptian, Iraqi Commandos

LD111525 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 11, IRNA — Some 322 Iranian hajj pilgrims were martyred while over 5,000 pilgrims wounded by the Saudi mercenaries in the Mecca massacre on July 31, Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi quoted latest reports as saying today.

Disclosing new details of the horrible carnage in an interview with IRNA here, Mohtashemi said Saudi Government has not yet allowed Iranian officials to inspect bodies of the martyrs. Only one photographer was allowed to take photographs of the faces of the martyrs, he added. "Blood-shattered faces cannot be identified through photographs", he stated.

Referring to the documents and evidence gathered by Iranian officials in Mecca, the minister said the global arrogance in a pre-planned plot carried out the massacre using Egyptian and Iraqi commandos dispatched to Saudi Arabia, in collaboration with the counter-revolutionary elements. "Egyptian regime had sent Zionist-trained commandos to Saudi Arabia several days before the massacre."

On world reaction towards the catastrophe, Mohtashemi said despite denunciation of the pilgrims rallies by an Egyptian Al-Azhar University shaykh, massive rallies were held recently in different Egyptian cities condemning massacre of the pilgrims. More than 2,000 university students called on Muslims to condemn the Saudi regime in the latest such rally, he said.

Saudi rulers and other regional reactionaries are manipulating the mass media and waging a propaganda tirade inside their countries in order to misguide Muslim public opinion misportraying the slaughter as clash between different sects in order to create ill-will towards Shi'ites, said the minister.

Mohtashemi said some 60 non-Iranian pilgrims have to-date been identified among the martyrs being kept in Saudi cold storage. They are mostly Lebanese, Palestinian and African nationals, he said, noting that bodies of two female Iranian pilgrims who were counted among those missing were found in Ma'abera Square in Mecca two days ago.

Refuting Saudi propaganda that its police did not fire on the marchers, Mohtashemi said thousands of pilgrim eye-witnesses saw the shooting, and that 10 wounded Iranians hospitalised still have shrapnel and bullets in them.

Following the catastrophe, said Mohtashemi, the Saudi Interior Ministry issued a communique in which number of casualties was put at 17 to 18 during what it declared to be "a 20-minute clash." Number of casualties reached over 300 as the incident's repercussions spread, said the minister who quoted some reports as saying that Masjid al-Haram doors were closed until one o'clock of the next day and a state of siege was imposed in Mecca up to the said time.

Saudi information minister put the number of casualties at more than 400 several days later when Saudi regime was not capable of covering up the massacre anymore, Mohtashemi concluded.

Hajj Supervisor on Corpses' Return

LD111351 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Interview with Mohammad Hoseyn Rezai'e, supervisor of the Hajj and Pilgrimage Headquarters, by unidentified correspondent in Mecca; date not given — recorded]

[Text][Correspondent] Mr Rezai'e, please tell us about the latest number of martyrs and missing, and the methods being implemented to transport the martyrs to Tehran.

[Rezai'e] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The number of corpses that we have or that has been reported by the Saudis is 322. This figure is the total number of corpses held in Saudi hospitals, whose photographs have been given to us and which we have placed in our own hospital for the purposes of identification. Of these, 215 have been clearly identified. Some of these corpses have been sent back to Iran in three batches: 57 in the first batch, 51 in the second, and last night we sent 62 back to Iran. As for the rest, we are waiting for them to be identified so that we can send them at regular intervals to Tehran. However,

as some of the corpses have not yet been handed over to us and as the Saudi hospitals are unable to identify them quickly and to match the names to the corpses, the work has progressed rather slowly. As of today, on the basis of permission granted yesterday following my meeting with the minister of pilgrimage affairs, members of the families who are here will be allowed to go to the mortuaries in order to identify more corpses. In any case, the number of corpses that we have but which are still unidentified is the remainder if we subtract 215 from 322.

However, as far as the number of missing people is concerned, that is, the names that we have of people who are not in the convoys, the convoys have given us a figure of 141 missing pilgrims. They are either among those corpses which can be subtracted after identification, or the rest may be in prison on the basis of the information given to us by the convoys.

Yesterday we asked the Saudi Government to tell us the names of our prisoners. If they give us the prisoners' names, it would be clear how many prisoners we have. In any case, it is the duty of the Saudi Government to reply quickly to us, the executive officials of the hajj, and let us know how many there are.

Yesterday, I told the pilgrimage affairs minister that the number of our pilgrims who entered Arabia is known. We should return the same number so that we can answer to their families. It should be made clear to us how many martyrs we have. We will transport their bodies. The rest of them are alive. Either you have imprisoned them and should hand them over to us, or they are our pilgrims who should return to Iran. This is our demand. We asked them to do it. However, the figures that we possess are the ones that I gave you.

[Correspondent] Please tell us about the procedure for transporting the pilgrims from Jeddah to Medina. When will the work of transporting the pilgrims to Tehran finish?.

[Rezai'e] We started on Friday. We started our first flight on Friday evening, and the flights left for Tehran on Friday. The number of pilgrims who have have left for Tehran up to this point, midnight, is approximately 37,500. This is the figure which I have received so far. According to the calculation of the Islamic Republic airline, the timeframe for completing transport is 16 days. We hope that the work will be completed without difficulty, without delay. In view of the volume and the fact that 157,000 must be transported in 16 days, this is a very difficult task. I hope that this will be accomplished within the 16-day timeframe.

Despite the fact that permission had not been granted to those who had visited Medina once to go there again, yesterday morning we succeeded in obtaining permission to send our headquarters and our relief and housing teams to Medina. Later, the pilgrims went to Medina. In these 2 days, approximately 38,000 people have gone to Medina. We shall send about the same number until tonight. We will send them as soon as possible so that they can spend more days in Medina. Certainly, those who go to Medina will have less time than last year and previous years, because the number of our return flights has been reduced. At the moment we are faced with a number of restrictions on visits to Medina. We have asked the officials here not to impose these restrictions. The news that I have received from Medina is that they are imposing many restrictions en route to Medina. At times pilgrims have to wait 5 hours at checkpoints before they are allowed to enter Medina. We have asked the Saudi Government to end these restrictions for our pilgrims.

KEYHAN Editorial on Incident

PM111339 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 2 Aug 87 p 20

[Editorial by Yunes Shokrkhah: "The United States and the Arab Reactionaries Lining Up Against the Islamic Revolution of Iran"]

[Text] The Iranian Islamic revolution has been diametrically opposed to U.S. strategy from the start of its success and has continued through the long war with Iraq, especially following the capture of Al-Faw. It has also gone through the Persian Gulf crisis with strength. Following the success of Iran's Islamic revolution, the United States started a series of parallel economic, psychological, and diplomatic pressures against Iran, all within a military framework. However, the prime U.S. strategy was to destroy Iran's political strength and the nature of the revolution.

The strategy of a "weak" war, which is on the White House agenda, is in reality a political deal which does not wish to maintain the status quo. This strategy is aimed at changing the current situation in favor of U.S. security interests. Despite this, Islamic Iran again moved successfully in a direction opposite to that which the new right-wing faction in the U.S. leadership had predicted.

Traditional American experts wanted to play in such a way as to render Iran ineffective and remove the revolution's legitimacy. By threatening Iran with a military attack, the Americans wanted to reach higher psychological and propaganda goals. In this "weak" war they seek to use regional elements to strike, but they lost even in this new psychological war.

The issue of lower oil prices, the tanker war in the Persian Gulf, the McFarlane affair, the embassies war, and, finally, the acts of terrorism in the Persian Gulf are all various links in the chain of this same "weak" war. This chain has been broken by the ideological power of the revolution and the readiness of the troops and people of Iran. In an all-out confrontation, and in a multidirectional struggle, Iran, more powerful than ever, has shown itself to the superpowers.

In this situation it was obvious that the right-wing faction of the Arab world would fall into deep and lasting fear. Morocco, Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Egypt, and others all sense that death is close. Naturally, the right-wing faction and, in general, all of the Arab reactionaries would unite.

The slaughter of Iranian pilgrims in Mecca's grand mosque is a clear indication of the reactionary Arabs' fear of the Iranian Islamic revolution's progress. The Arab reactionaries are hurling their final blows within the framework of the perpetual U.S. struggle against Iran. Because they have been disappointed with their masters and because they fear imminent death, they pick up arms like madmen about to commit crimes.

In addition to all this, the cruel rulers of Riyadh are engaged in a confrontation against the charter of Iran's Islamic revolution, at a time when Reagan's European allies have left the U.S. President alone in the quagmire of the Persian Gulf, especially following the formal announcement of Iran's charter of resistance [reference to Khomeyni's message to the hajj pilgrims].

Riyadh has shown its cruelty and stupidity more than ever. What remains to be seen is how Iran and the region's revolutionary circles will react. The killings on Mecca's black Friday will be a yardstick to measure the positions of all those circles who claim to be confronting the United States and the region's reactionaries. The way they react to this issue will show how sincere they are in their positions.

For Iran the path is clear. Riyadh's wish to become leader of the reactionaries will never materialize. The battle against the aggressor Iraq, the United States' other element, will continue more intensely than ever before. Refining Iran's position against the United States and the Arab reactionaries is the only way to achieve the goals of the revolution under the present circumstances, following the tremendous gain in power. The army of Mohammad has taken up arms for the oppressed of the world with this hope in mind.

Commentary Views 'Plots' Against Indian Muslims

NC111217 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Central News Unit Research Bureau commentary: "Current Developments in India on the Eve of Its Independence Anniversary"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Racial and sectarian tensions in India are intensifying. Brutal conflicts between Hindus and Muslims during the last 2 months have led to the killing and injury of dozens of Muslims. It is said that the suppression and killing of Indian Muslims in New Delhi and other Indian cities on a scale unprecedented since India's independence stem from the imposition of a policy of intimidation and injustice by the Hindus. News agency reports also indicate that since independence thousands of plots have been hatched against the Muslims in India. Many have remained silent, thus giving a free hand to those who seek to implement policies of intimidation and pressure by the Hindu majority. These plots have become an everyday matter. It should be pointed out that Indian Muslims played a basic role in achieving India's independence. Their liberation struggles, alongside the followers of other religions, including Hindus, led to the ousting of the British colonialists from that country.

There are only a few days to go until 15 August, the anniversary of India's independence. On the eve of this 40th anniversary of India's liberation from British colonialism, India faces increasing racial and sectarian brutality. During the 40 years since India's independence, this brutality has overshadowed the non-violent principles of [Mahatma] Gandhi and Nehru and has also seriously threatened India's democracy within the framework of its domestic and foreign policies. [passage omitted]

Political observers believe that the daily increasing pressure of military expenditures, coupled with the rapid growth in population, as well as the problem of feeding more than 700 million Indians and the fear of a famine and hunger-stricken future, are among the problems that Rajiv Gandhi will face if the influential Congress Party is to continue to rule and preserve its traditional place in India.

Chad Condemned for Attacks on 'Libyan Border Areas'

LD111437 Tehran IRNA in English 1422 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 11, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Ministry released a statement here Tuesday, strongly condemning the Chadian Government for its military attacks on the southern Libyan border areas. The statement pledged Iran's full support for Libya in the confrontation with plots and aggression of imperialist powers and their puppet African regimes.

The "barbaric" U.S. bombing of Libyan cities of Banghazi and Tripoli on April 15, 1986, followed by recent military developments on the southern Libyan border areas, are aimed at destabilizing the Tripoli government and forcing it to back away from its revolutionary and progressive stands, the statement said.

The statement asserted that the Islamic Republic strongly condemns colonial powers for their military interventions in Africa especially in countries resisting their (colonial powers') policy of bullying.

Elsewhere in its statement, the Foreign Ministry called on all international organizations particularly the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity to perform their task of preventing aggression and maintaining peace.

Steel Company Director Returns From USSR Visit

NC090659 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 9 Aug 87

[Text] Mr Moqimi, deputy minister of mines and metals and managing director of the National Iranian Steel Company, who led a delegation to the Soviet Union, returned to Tehran this morning. In an interview with our correspondent after his arrival, he spoke about the outcome of this visit.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Engineer Moqimi, you went to the Soviet Union at the head of a delegation of experts from the Board of Directors of the National Iranian Steel Company. What was the outcome of this trip?

[Moqimi] In the name of God, the almighty, the compassionate. A protocol was signed last year between the National Iranian Steel Company and the Soviet Union. This protocol called for a session [of the committee] for joint cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USSR and stated that the Soviet Union would assist in overcoming the problems faced by the Esfahan Steel Mill within 15 months. This visit was aimed at following up the provisions of the protocol. We discussed goals that have already been met.

We are fortunate in that the accomplishments to date indicate that by the end of Bahman this year [month ending 19 February] these problems will be solved, God willing.

Detailed and lengthy talks were also held on other problems between the two sides. These were conducted in a very good atmosphere, and it was agreed that within the next 2 months experts from both sides would discuss and resolve these problems. Discussions were also held on future cooperation, and it was agreed that after resolution of current problems and difficulties future activities would be studied.

[Correspondent] In addition to the steel mills, the Soviets cooperate with us in various fields, including mining. Did you talk about completing such projects, and, if so, what progress was made?

[Moqimi] We discussed our existing problems in mining, as well as in steel. We held detailed talks on the dispatch of spare parts and equipment needed by coal-washing units and equipment needed in mining. They agreed to take steps on the basis of former agreements and to see that no delay is made in sending equipment. Planning and other activities in the field of mining necessary for achieving the 1.9-million tonne mark in the first and second phase of the steel industry have been carried out. Therefore, during this round of talks we did not discuss the continuation of cooperation or achievements. We talked only about preliminaries for future agreements. [end recording]

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Iraqi Counterattack Repulsed

LD111056 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] According to a report from the "Nasr-7" operational theater, last night the forces of the Iraqi Zionist regime launched a counterattack from the opposite side of Dopaza heights in the "Nasr-7" operational theater. Thanks to the vigilance of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, they suffered considerable losses and casualties and were forced to retreat. In the course of repulsing the counterattack of the Zionist enemey, at least one Iraqi company was destroyed and dozens of their troops were either killed or wounded.

The intense artillery fire of the Guards Corps Ground Forces also set ablaze four vehicles of the Zionist enemy. The smoke rising from the destruction of these vehicles and their ammunition was visible in the operational sector for hours.

Communique No 2,925

LD111638 Tehran IRNA in English 1619 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 11, IRNA — An undetermined number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements, two munitions dumps, seven vehicles and one rocket launcher destroyed in parts of the battlefields in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim combatants Monday.

Announcing the above, the 2925th Joint Staff communique reported here Tuesday that Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern fronts Monday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying 10 gun emplacements of theirs. The artillery fire of Iranian forces inflicted heavy losses on Iraqi motorized and armoured columns in Helaleh, Neykhazar [placename as received], Nahr 'Anbar, Zobeydah, Khurmal and Chananeh war theaters yesterday.

Iranian Navy gunboats intercepted and searched a cargo ship and an oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied there was no Iraqi bound cargo aboard them, the communique concluded.

Iraqi Counterattacks 'Repelled'

LD120651 Tehran IRNA in English 0645 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 12, IRNA — Muslim combatants and Iraqi Kurds repelled five Iraqi counter-attacks to retake heights liberated during Fath-9 operations Monday and Tuesday, killing and wounding 250 Ba'thists and crushing two regrouped battalions.

The Tehran-based *Abrar* daily said Wednesday that four reinforced Iraqi battalons of reconstructed units of Presidential Guards and regrouped forces in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province, northeastern Iraq, took part in the counter-attacks to boost the morale of the Iraqi Ba'thist troops in the region but were repelled.

Several munition depots, 20 vehicles, four tanks and tens of heavy and light weapons were destroyed. *Abrar* said that the number of Iraqis killed or wounded in the operations now reached 600. At least 40 POW's were transferred to safe spots behind frontlines.

Iraqi Border Centers Shelled

LD120712 Tehran IRNA in English 0705 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 12, IRNA — Iraq's border military and economic centers were shelled in retaliation for Iraq's attacks upon civilian and industrial quarters earlier this week.

Iranian artillery shelled a tactical base of Division 14th of Iraqi 7th Corps, training garrisons, military and industrial sites near Umm Qasr port, Al-Basra-Al-'Amarah and Al-Faw-Umm Qasr roads, inflicting damage on them.

At least 10 Iraqi tanks and vehicles were set afire and many Iraqi soldiers killed or wounded. Smoke from the burned vehicles and installations welled up into the sky for several hours.

1,000 Casualties in 'Nasr-7' Area

LD121051 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] According to the Joint Staff of the three forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], early this morning the defeated enemy counterattacked in the "Nasr-7" operational theater.

The futile counterattack was strongly repulsed through the bravery and resistence of the powerful fighters of the 29th Bani-Akram Brigade of the IRGC Ground Forces.

The forces of the Zionist regime ruling over Baghdad sustained heavy damage. In this encounter, more than 1,000 enemy troops were killed or wounded. A number of them were also taken prisoner by the army of Islam.

A vast quantity of enemy equipment and weapons was set on fire and destroyed. After sustaining heavy damages during this encounter, the enemy was forced to retreat from the region.

President Condemns Iranian 'Sabotage' in Mecca

LD111436 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0945 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Jeddah, 11 Aug (SPA) — His Excellency Pakistani President Muhammad Ziaul Haq has praised the wisdom with which King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and his wise government dealt with the acts of sabotage carried out by some Iranian elements in holy Mecca. He said the custodian of the two holy mosques, who followed those incidents with wisdom and clear-sightedness, has prevented their aggravation.

In a statement to the newspaper *Al-Bilad*, published today, his excellency the Pakistani president expressed his complete support for the custodian of the two holy mosques for his successful efforts for the glory of Islam and the service of pilgrims, as well as for safeguarding order and security in the Islamic holy places.

His excellency reiterated his denunciation of the sabotage acts carried out by the Iranian regime in holy Mecca with the goal of hindering the pilgrimage rites. He said this tragedy caused deep regret and pain in the Islamic world. His Excellency President Ziaul Haq added that any Muslim devoted to his religion completely rejects the dangerous incidents that took place around the holy mosque in Mecca. He described the Iranian acts of sabotage as a violation of the sanctity of the Islamic holy places and a serious offense against the goals of the Muslims, especially those who perform the pilgrimage rite. His excellency also said the pilgrimage is only for worship, prayers, and invocation of God, and Muslims should perform the pilgrimage duty selflessly.

Further Reportage on Mardan Bomb Explosions

Karachi Reports 11 Killed

BK111530 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Three bombs exploded in Mardan today. Two explosions occurred near a bus stand and the third on Bank Road. A press note issued by the district magistrate of Mardan says 11 people have been killed and 40 injured, several of them critically. The press note adds that a procession was organized in the main bazaar to express anguish and indignation against this inhuman action. Certain troublemakers tried to disrupt the peace and order, but the local administration intervened and brought the situation under control. Strict precautionary and security measures have been taken and the law enforcement agencies have been instructed to track down saboteurs and suspected persons so they can be arrested. The press note also says arrangements are being made to provide compensation to the dependents of those killed and to the injured. A late report says two of the injured have died at the hospital.

Leaders Express Sorrow

BK120417 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo have expressed deep anguish and sorrow over the loss of precious lives and damage to property as a result of the bomb blasts in Mardan yesterday. The president expressed confidence that the determination, fortitude, and spirit of the people of the entire country will not be affected by cowardly terrorist acts against innocent people. The president commended the spirit and resolution displayed by the people while facing the situation and the initiative taken by the administration, medical personnel, and volunteers in helping the affected people. The president also spoke by telephone with the North West Frontier Province governor and the chief minister and assured them that the federal government will make every possible effort to remove the difficulties of those affected.

The prime minister said that although such terrorist activities do create severe hardships for innocent people, they will however, further strengthen their determination to uphold justice and truth and thereby promote brotherliness among Pakistanis. He expressed confidence that the terrorists will be apprehended as a result of the government's recent steps to end terrorism, and they will be given exemplary punishment under the new antiterrorist laws. The prime minister directed the provincial government to extend all possible assistance to the affected families and take all necessary steps for the treatment of injured people. The president and the prime minister prayed for the souls of those killed and the speedy recovery of the wounded.

THE MUSLIM Blames Foreign Policy for Bombings

BK110901 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Jul 87 p 4

[Article by Khalid Akhtar: "Bombing Spate — A Legacy of Controversial Foreign Policy"]

[Text] "Whither Pakistan" is the question the nation is faced with today. The spate of bombing has run a shudder throughout the length and breadth of the country. The people are aghast, bewildered and horror-stricken. The Karachi bomb blasts, which littered the metropolitan city's streets with blood and limbs, have deepened the gloom and despondency at the national scene and there is a widespread feeling that the nation is in for a very bad time.

President Ziaul Haq has described the bomb blasts as a campaign against what he called the country's principled policy towards the Afghan issue and has warned the nation that more terrorist acts of this nature will take place in the days to come. But Premier Junejo two days afterwards during the course of his press conference in Karachi added two more possible factors behind these explosions. First, he did not rule out the possibility of India's involvement in the ongoing 'sabotage operation' in the country, and secondly he said in no uncertain manner that 'forces' were at work to fail his democratic government. True, Mr. Junejo has not contradicted Zia's position on the issue, but at the same time he has not supplemented the president's views either. The incident has, however, again highlighted lack of coordination between the two on vital issues. It would have served the cause of government well if the two had come out with a coordinated explanation. Their present postures have only added to the confusion and made the bombing spate an even more mysterious and perhaps an inexplicable phenomenon.

There are three aspects to Mr Junejo's statement and any one of them separately or all put together could have been responsible for the PM's blunt expression. In the first place it could be an attempt to defuse the mounting anti-Afghan refugees tirade (they are being held responsible for most of Pakistan's plight) and pre-empt the likelihood of the break-out of any factional fighting in Karachi. Secondly the government could be playing on the well-known 'Indian bogey' to divert the masses attention from the real problems confronting the country. And thirdly the authorities may have really come to seize some solid indications, if not evidences, of India's involvement in the 'terrorist acts' in Pakistan. If Mr. Junejo's assertion is even partly based on the last probability, Pakistan is up against a challenge of unforeseen dimension. It is hoped that the government will be more imaginative and realistic while evaluating the hazards posed by the two-front situation.

There is no evidence to prove Mr. Junejo's second charge that attempts are being made to fail his 'democratic' government. The assumption, not substantiated by hard facts, that some of the political parties may be involved in the sabotage operation will only add to the bitterness. The statement by an enthusiastic provincial minister that the government will probe into the probability of the 'Al-Zulfiqar' involvement in the terrorist acts has strengthened the apprehension that the authorities may use these incidents to indulge in witch hunting to eliminate its political opponents. Such an approach, if adopted, will only precipitate the crisis. The number two assumption that the powers that be are contemplating to re-impose martial law also does not hold good. It will be a most unwelcome option for Gen Zia to revert back to pre-1986 position. (This will unmistakably signal Gen Zia's doom). He has to manoeuvre within his system and his system gives him the option to dispense with Mr Junejo and try someone else in his place. But this course is also fraught with all kinds of risks and Gen Zia will only use this prerogative as a last resort.

Unfortunately both President Zia and Premier Junejo (largely due to their limitations, mainly political in nature) have avoided going into the heart of the problem. Their refusal to see realities have made matters worse. The present situation has not been created overnight or by one factor. There have been some deep-rooted and multiple reasons responsible for the mess in which Pakistan finds itself today.

The remedy cannot be found in isolation from other objective realities of the situation. But this is exactly the mistake that the government has repeatedly made and each time the results have been disastrous. Today the interior of Sind appears to be an abode of the 'dacoits'. What a painful mockery. The authorities could have spared themselves this embarrassment had they not over-emphasised with the administrative approach to resolve the Sind problem, which is primarily political in character.

Any situation that deteriorates beyond a certain extent naturally assumes law and order aspect. Here our law enforcing agencies have shown glaring deficiencies to deal with any kind of emergency. Their orientation has remained (no.1) protection of VIPs and (no.2), elimination of political opponents of the government of the day. They have performed this dual objective with ruthless efficiency. But they have miserably failed in discharging their normal duties as custodians of law and order. Their working has to be re-channelised if they are to be made useful.

It will need a comprehensive approach, based on multi-dimensional political initiatives both at home and at the external front, if the government wants to check the downward trend. It is least debatable that polarisation at home and the fallouts of the 'controversial' foreign policy have combined together to tear apart what has remained of the nation's fabric. Much could be said in favour of the Afghan-policy, but it remains an irrefutable fact that any policy that leaves behind a legacy of millions of refugees is bound to put tremendous strains on the country's political and social life. The Kalashnikov and heroin culture is one of the off shoots of the Afghan policy. Again it was wrong to have assumed that the bomb blasts would remain confined to NWFP. *The Sunday Observer* has aptly put it that Afghanistan is at once Gen Zia's strength and his Achilles heel. Nay things can go far worse. It is the country's integrity that is at stake.

The mounting tension in the Gulf has brought into focus the country's Gulf policy. Despite the American pressure and persuasion by some friendly Arab countries, hostile to Iran, Pakistan has remained firm and pursued a Gulf policy that has suited the national interest. But some powerful lobbies working at all levels have tended to make things difficult for Pakistan. The organised inflow of trained cadres of Khalq mujahidin into Karachi and the freedom with which they had been conducting their propaganda campaign against the revolutionary Iranian regime all give credence to a conspiracy theory. (There are sketchy reports that the Khalq mujahidin enjoy the covert blessing of America and some Arab states.) There is a view that the Karachi blasts are part of a strategy to pressure Pakistan to give in on the Gulf issue. It is very sad that Pakistan's cities should have become a battleground of rival Iranian factions. This is a nasty situation and would need a bold and imaginative handling.

It will be another short-sighted foreign policy decision on the part of Pakistan if it allows the U.S. warships to visit the Karachi port at a time when hostilities between America and Iran may break out in the Gulf any time. This will contrast sharply with Iranian friendly gestures when Pakistan was involved in wars with India in 1965 and 1971. American friendship may be a great asset for the regime but nothing would make up for the 'strategic loss' that the country is likely to suffer if in the process of maintaining special relationship with the U.S. Pakistan loses its equation with Iran.

Mr Junejo has ruled out any change in the Afghan policy. It is apprehended that due to the 'American connection' Pakistan's Gulf policy may also lose direction. And finally with polarisation deepening at home Islamabad is hardly in a position to counter the pitfalls of the fast deteriorating regional situation. It is not wise to postpone everything to the distant 1990. There is perhaps still time to set things right both at the external and home fronts. Any delay would expose the nation to greater disasters than the Karachi holocaust.

Japanese Foreign Minister Arrives, Makes Statement

OW111425 Tokyo KYODO in English 1419 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Colombo, Aug. 11 KYODO — Japanese Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari arrived in Sri Lanka from New Delhi Tuesday on the second leg of his three-nation southwest Asian tour which has already taken him to India.

Kuranari said in an airport statement: "While being aware of the difficulties that confront Sri Lanka in its ethnic problem, I welcome the fact that a new situation toward solution to the problem has been brought about by the outstanding leadership of His Excellency President Junius R. Jayawardene."

"I hope that a national reconciliation on the matter will be achieved as soon as possible on the basis of the recent agreement, respecting the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka," he said.

Kuranari was referring to a peace agreement signed between Sri Lanka and India July 29 designed to end the four-year-old Tamil ethnic war in Sri Lanka. More than 6,000 people have reportedly died in the conflict.

While here until Thursday [13 August], he will discuss this problem as well as other international issues with Sri Lankan leaders, including President Jayawardene and Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, and pledge to expand Japan's economic aid to Sri Lanka.

After Sri Lanka, Kuranari will visit Bangladesh.

Delhi Home Guard Units Begin Withdrawing

BK120306 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the winding up of Home Guard units in the north and east has begun as provided for in the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. The Home Guards, who are mostly Sinhalese civilians, were given shotguns by the government for protection of villagers against militant attacks. Our Colombo correspondent reports that about 8,000 shotguns have been handed over to the authorities so far by the Home Guards.

Moderate Tamil Leaders Planning Return

BK111410 Hong Kong AFP in English 1337 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 11 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's Tamil moderate leaders will leave southern India, where they have been living in self-imposed exile, for their homes in the island nation "in a week or so," a top leader said Tuesday.

Leaders of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), Sri Lanka's main Tamil political party, will leave for the island "shortly... in a week or so." TULF chief Appapillai Amirthalingam said in a telephone interview from Madras, where he has been living since 1983.

"We haven't finalised our plans yet, but we certainly plan to go," he told *Agence France-Presse*. "It's too early to say more."

It was the first public announcement by Mr Amirthalingam that he and other leaders of his moderate party would return to their homes in Sri Lanka's Tamil-dominated north and multi-racial east.

The TULF emerged as the largest opposition party in the last Sri Lankan general elections in 1977 when Mr Amirthalingam became the leader of the opposition. He was given the rank of a cabinet minister.

But TULF parliament members have since lost membership in the house because either they went into exile after large-scale anti-Tamil rioting in Sri Lanka in mid-1983 and failed to attend sessions, or because they refused to take a constitutional oath to uphold the island's unitary state.

Mr Amirthalingam, who is known to be close to New Delhi, said his trip to Sri Lanka would be his first for nearly a year.

He went to Colombo to attend multi-party meetings on the Tamil ethnic conflict in 1984 and paid further visits in mid-1986.

Almost all Tamil militant groups have strongly criticised the TULF for its moderate stance and the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has reportedly sentenced him to death.

LTTE guerrillas took over Mr Amirthalingam's house at Moolai village, 16 kilometres from Jaffna town, some four months ago and turned it into a kangaroo court.

According to Tamil sources, the TULF hopes to become the main opponent to the Tamil militant groups in both the north and east of the country in provincial elections scheduled to take place by the end of 1987 under the Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Accord.

LTTE Denies Political Chief in India

BK111130 Hong Kong AFP in English 1113 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 11 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil militant group Tuesday denied that one of its senior leaders had flown to India for discussions with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported.

Dilip Yogi, a Political Committee member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), was still in the island's northern Jaffna peninsula, PTI quoted LLTE's Anton S. Balasingham as telling reporters in Madras, southern India.

News reports from Jaffna said Mr Yogi had flown to India Monday to seek a written guarantee from Mr Gandhi for the welfare of Sri Lankan Tamils under a peace pact signed by India and Sri Lanka to end the island's ethnic conflict.

The reports said Mr Yogi had left by an Indian Air Force plane along with other LTTE officials and would hold meetings with

government officials in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu as well.

Mr Balasingham, who is LTTE's political advisor, said he had spoken to Mr Yogi over the telephone early Tuesday and had been informed that no LTTE leader was planning to come to India in the next few days.

Mr Yogi, a non-combatant, heads the LTTE's political wing and had led the group's surrender of arms last week at Jaffna's Palaly air base.

All Tamil rebels are to lay down their weapons under the peace accord signed in Colombo July 29 by Mr Gandhi and Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene.